

'BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

MARCH, 2000
VOLUME 22, NUMBER 3



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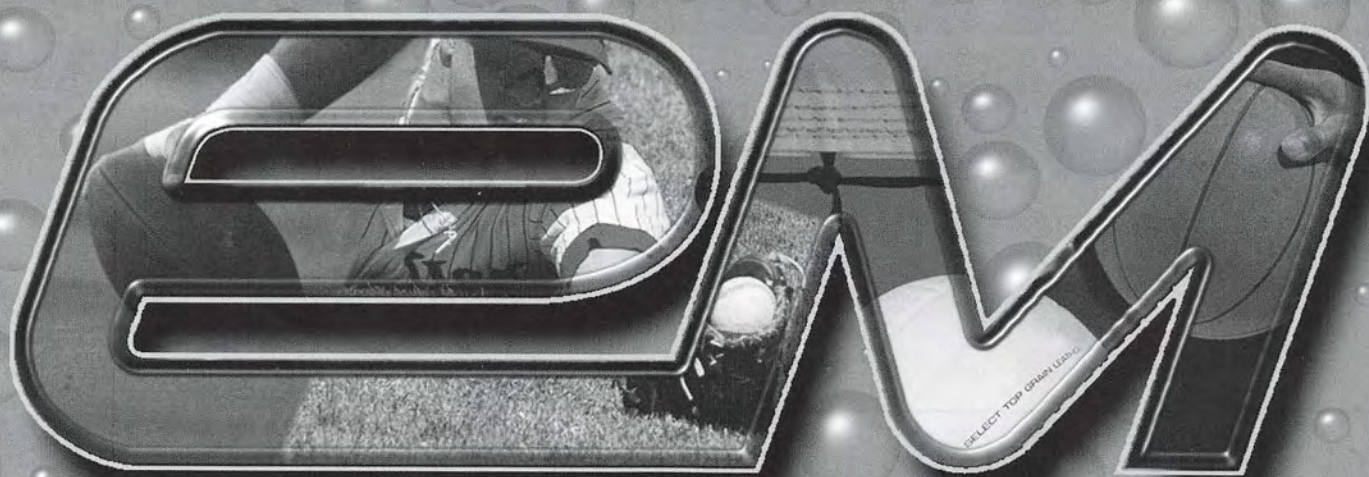
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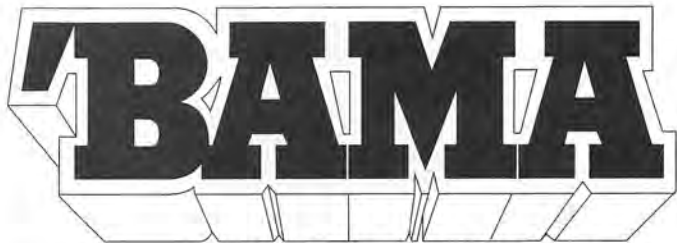
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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

MARCH, 2000

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 3

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Barry Fikes Photos



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Alabama catcher Kelley Gullledge was won over by the big-time atmosphere of Sewell-Thomas Stadium when he was being recruited, and that's no small feat considering where Gullledge has been in his baseball life.
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Alabama's football coaching staff went after the beef in this recruiting season and the result was an exceptional class of new Crimson Tide performers. Alabama's groups of signees has been judged to be among the nation's best.
by James Edwards

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2000 Alabama Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Series Record
Sept. 2	UCLA	Pasadena	Alabama leads, 1-0-0
Sept. 9	Vanderbilt	Birmingham	Alabama leads, 55-19-4
Sept. 16	Southern Mississippi	Birmingham	Alabama leads, 29-5-2
Sept. 23	Arkansas	Fayetteville	Alabama leads, 7-3-0
Sept. 30	South Carolina	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 9-0-0
Oct. 14	Mississippi	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 38-7-2
Oct. 21	Tennessee	Knoxville	Alabama leads, 42-33-7
Oct. 28	Central Florida (Homecoming)	Tuscaloosa	First Meeting
Nov. 4	LSU	Baton Rouge	Alabama leads, 42-16-5
Nov. 11	Mississippi State	Starkeville	Alabama leads, 67-14-3
Nov. 18	Auburn	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 37-26-1
Southeastern Conference Championship Game			
Dec. 2	TBA	Atlanta	Florida leads, 3-2

BAMA SCORECARD

Derrick Thomas

With so much bad about athletics in general and professional athletics in particular, it was no wonder that former President George Bush proclaimed Derrick Thomas one of the nation's Thousand Points of Light. Thomas, who starred at Alabama (1985-88) and then for the Kansas City Chiefs, was legendary for his good works. He had been honored as NFL Man of the Year for his charity and for the time he gave to others. When he died unexpectedly February 8 from complications resulting from catastrophic injuries he suffered in an automobile accident, the nation mourned.

"Derrick Thomas represented all that is good about collegiate athletics," said Alabama Athletics Director Mal Moore. "In a time when role models were hard to find, Derrick chose to quietly make the world a better place to live. His enthusiasm and zest for life will be missed."

Tide Head Football Coach Mike DuBose also announced that a new award would be added at the conclusion of spring practice. "I can think of no better way to honor Derrick than to institute this new award, 'The Derrick Thomas Community Service Award,' that we will give to a current football player who exemplifies the standard of community service and giving that represents Derrick," DuBose said. Following each spring practice, Tide coaches announce 14 award winners in various categories, "but this one would recognize community service, leadership and other involvement in the community, outside of football," DuBose added.

In addition, DuBose said that Thomas' number 55 jersey will be awarded each fall to an Alabama defensive player who best exemplifies the athletic qualities that propelled Thomas to an All-America career at Alabama. That probably will not involve an immediate decision since the jersey is currently worn by Kenny King, a freshman star last fall.

When Thomas was buried on February 19, the occasion was marked on the Alabama campus as Denny Chimes was rung five times, then, following a pause, five more times, representing his number 55. The chimes then played the "Yea, Alabama!" fight song in his honor.

University President Andrew Sorensen and DuBose headed a delegation from The University to the funeral. DuBose, who had been an assistant coach for the Tide in Thomas' first two seasons at Bama, was one of the speakers at his funeral.

Sorensen announced that Thomas will be posthumously granted a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in criminal justice, despite being 15 credits short.

Previously Sorensen had announced that Eliza and Hugh F. Culverhouse Jr., of Miami, would establish an endowed scholarship fund at The University in honor of Thomas. Mr. and Mrs. Culverhouse made the initial

gift to kick off the fund which will benefit students who are committed to community service.

For more information or to contribute to the Derrick Thomas Endowed Scholarship Fund, contact The University of Alabama Office of University Advancement at Box 870122, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487 or call (205) 348-4767.

Looking Ahead

A BAMA tradition for the past couple of decades has been to give you the first peek at the top upcoming high school senior football players in the state of Alabama. Some of the names on this list are already familiar to Crimson Tide fans. Here in alphabetical order are some names to watch in the 2000-2001 recruiting season.

Cole Barthel, 6-1, 195, quarterback, Decatur; Ratavious Biddle, 6-1, 180, wide receiver, Decatur; Patrick Billings, 6-1, 225, athlete, Town Creek Hazlewood; Brandon Brooks, 5-5, 150, flanker, Birmingham Shades Valley; Brodie Croyle, 6-3, 205, quarterback, Rainbow City Westbrook Christian; B.J. Dean, 6-0, 235, linebacker, Tuscaloosa Central; Tavarous Doyle, 6-2, 190, athlete, Clay-Chalkville; Von Ewing, 6-5, 250, defensive end, Charles Henderson of Troy; Cedrick Hampton, 6-3, 235, tight end, Courtland; Avery House, 6-5, 270, offensive lineman, Springville; Anthony Mix, 6-4, 220, wide receiver, Bay Minette Baldwin County; Spencer Pennington, 6-3, 195, quarterback, Fayette County; Chris Pointer, 6-1, 170, cornerback, Moulton Lawrence County; Freddie Roach, 6-3, 230, linebacker, Killen Brooks; LaMarcus Rowell, 6-4, 225, linebacker, Opelika; Mark Sanders, 6-7, 291, offensive lineman, Ashville; Justin Tuck, 6-4, 220, tight end, Rockford Coosa Central; Antonio West, 6-2, 240, running back, Mobile Davidson; Carnell Williams, 6-1, 190, running back, Attalla Etowah County; Leartist Williams, 6-1, 245, fullback, Mobile Davidson; Lorenzo Williams, 6-0, 175, running back, G.W. Long of Skipperville; and Keldrick Williams, 5-11, 180, running back, Montgomery Sidney Lanier.

This annual list also carries the caveat that some named here may not be top prospects next winter. Injuries, academics and performance can affect the process. Additionally, there will almost certainly be upcoming high school seniors not on this list who will be highly-sought after.

All-Stars

The annual Alabama-Mississippi High School All-Star Football Game will include a handful of future Crimson Tide football players. The Alabama squad includes these Bama signees:

Wide receiver Triandos Luke of Phenix City Central, offensive lineman Wesley Britt of Cullman, offensive lineman Evan Mathis of Homewood, defensive lineman Anthony

Bryant of Sunshine of Newbern, and defensive end Antwan Odom of Alma Bryant in Irvington.

Bowens To Assist

Graduating senior wide receiver Tim Bowens will work with Tide Receivers Coach Dabo Swinney this spring as a student assistant coach. "People just don't realize how much we're going to miss Tim on the field," Swinney said. "He was probably the most complete football player that we had, providing good leadership. I'm really looking forward to working with him."

Trying to keep track of so many players is a challenge for any coach, but especially at the wide receiver position. "Sometimes I have to coach off the film because maybe I didn't see the mistake in practice," Swinney explained. "Having Tim around will be like having four eyes out there. He really understands what we're doing. He's a student of the game who was invaluable to me last year and I'm going to really count on him this year as well. It'll be nice having him there."

Bowens may continue working with the squad next season as a graduate assistant.

Tournament Time

The Southeastern Conference Men's Basketball Tournament will be March 9-12 at the GeorgiaDome in Atlanta. Alabama won't be expected to win the championship, but the Tide has done very well in the SEC Tournament. Only Kentucky, far and away the dominant basketball team in SEC history, has a better SEC Tournament record. The Wildcats have a 96-15 mark with an 86.5 per cent winning percentage and 22 championships. Alabama is second—admittedly, a distant second—in all categories with a 50-33 record, 60.2 per cent winning mark and six championships.

Alabama basketball is third in all-time winning percentage among league members with Kentucky and Arkansas leading the Tide. And Bama has a winning record in head-to-head meetings with every SEC team except Kentucky and Arkansas.

Time Is Of The Essence

Several years ago the Southeastern Conference Track and Field Championships were being contested at Baton Rouge and in the final event the Alabama women's relay team won the race and, with it, the SEC title. But wait! A judge ruled that a Tide runner had stepped out of her lane. That disqualified Bama's relay team and gave the championship to LSU.

Fast forward to February 4, 2000, and Alabama's gymnastics team, ranked number one in the nation, is at LSU. LSU upset the Tide by .075 point. And the reason the Tigers won was Alabama suffered a one-tenth point deduction. A timekeeper provided by LSU reported that Lissy Smith's balance beam routine was five seconds short, resulting in the deduction that decided the

meet. The routine must last between 1:10 and 1:30. Alabama videotapes all of its routines in real time. The actual time of Smith's routine was 1:20, precisely within the time frame.

Alabama Head Coach Sarah Patterson addressed the matter briefly. She said, "The difference in the meet, unfortunately, came down to a scoring discrepancy. Lissy Smith was deducted a tenth of a point for being under time. Our video shows she was within regulation. You have to give credit to LSU, though. They had a perfect meet. We were good, but we can be much better."

Patterson didn't appeal to the SEC or the NCAA. "I wanted our ladies to handle it in a way where we showed class and integrity," she said. "People asked, 'Why don't you file a protest?' But it would provide no other purpose than to create ill feelings."

Years ago, after LSU's football team had miraculously run two plays in the final seven seconds of the game to pull out a win against Ole Miss, someone posted a sign on the highway at the state line warning, "You are now entering Louisiana. Set your watch back seven seconds." An interesting tradition.

Count It

Alabama and Auburn met in a baseball game in the Louisiana SuperDome in New Orleans February 20, part of the prestigious Winn Dixie Showdown Tournament held every year.

Bama went to New Orleans ranked third in the nation in one poll and fourth in another, but after losing games to New Orleans and Tulane it was proving to be an unhappy series. In the final game, Bama and Auburn got together in a game that doesn't count in SEC play, but which does count in national rankings.

As has generally been the case since Jim Wells came to Alabama, the Crimson Tide cruised to victory, a 7-2 decision.

Alabama and Auburn will play for real (insofar as the SEC is concerned) May 8-10 in Tuscaloosa.

Wigginton Out

Freshman outfielder Derek Wigginton, who transferred to Bama in January from Miami, obviously had high expectations. And the former star at Father Ryan High School in Antioch, Tennessee, had reason for high hopes since he had been drafted by the Cleveland Indians out of high school. But when Bama opened the season and Wigginton wasn't in the starting line-up, he took his bat and glove and went home. Tide Head Coach Jim Wells said that Wigginton didn't speak to him before leaving and pronounced him off the team.

Great Start

The Alabama softball team was picked to finish second in the SEC Western Division with LSU not only the unanimous pick to win the West, but also to win the league title. Behind Bama, SEC coaches selected Mississippi State, Arkansas, Ole Miss and Auburn. South Carolina was picked to win the Eastern Division.

Pay Attention, Eufaula

Bama Editor Kirk McNair has twice spoken to the Alabama Alumni Association in Barbour County, once prior to the undefeated national championship 1979 season and again prior to the 1992 undefeated national championship season. While it seems logical that the group would book McNair prior to the start of every season, that has not been the case. McNair may or may not be speaking in Eufaula this year, but he will be speaking to a number of groups—alumni meetings, Quarterback and Touchdown clubs, Red Elephant gatherings, etc.

If your group is looking for a speaker on Alabama football and you would like to know about the possibility of having Kirk McNair, contact Vera Dowdle at (205) 345-5074 for details.

The Tide got off to a record-breaking start. Coach Pat Murphy's squad won its first seven games, a school record, and won the season-opening Metrodome Classic Softball Tournament in Minneapolis.

Five Tiders were selected to the all-tournament team with Shelley Laird, who pitched three victories, being named most valuable player. Sophomore second baseman Suzanne Olcott was named SEC Player of the Week as she hit .333 and had three home runs, five runs batted in, and nine runs scored in the tournament. Others named to the all-tournament team were Kelly Kretschman, Ginger Jones and freshman Jennifer Reach.

New Signees

The February 2 national signing day had the internet, 900 numbers, radio talk shows and newspapers full of talk about this year's crop of football recruits. But other fall sports began signing players that day, too. In Alabama's case that meant new additions to the volleyball and soccer squads.

Volleyball coach Judy Green announced the additions of Erin Price and Jennifer Bibber.

Price, a 6-2 right side hitter from Alpharetta, Georgia, was a four-year letterwinner at Centennial High School. She was Georgia Player of the Year. In addition to being a two-time all-state selection in volleyball, Price also captured the state high jump championship and was selected the Georgia Track Woman of the Year.

Bibber, a 6-2 outside hitter from Mobile, was awarded a Capstone Scholarship to attend Alabama and thus is considered a walk-on. The third Alabama native to join the Crimson Tide program during Green's tenure, Bibber was a three-sport standout at St. Paul's Episcopal High competing in volleyball, basketball and track and field. Twice named all-state, she set a school record with 977 career kills. Bibber will be redshirted for the 2000 season due to the abundance of returning players at the outside hitter position.

The Alabama volleyball team is coming off its best season since 1995, finishing with a 17-15 overall mark and a 7-8 record in the SEC. The Tide returns all six starters and all 14 players from this year's squad for the 2000 season.

The soccer program has announced the signing of 12 incoming freshmen. This marks the largest recruiting class ever for Coach Don Staley.

The new additions on offense are Rebecca Baker of Foley, Ann Gilbert and Kelly Rowe of North Carolina, Elizabeth Jannik of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Dawn Nash of Cooper City, Florida, Katie Holtzapfel of Florence, Kentucky, and Lauren Imwalle of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Signees for defense are Caroline Bolz of Houston, Texas, Kristin McRee of Brandon, Mississippi, Sarah Marcantel of Lake Charles, Louisiana, Melissa Montgomery of Tallahassee, Florida, and Jessica McLean of Dothan.

Gearing Up

The University of Alabama women's soccer team is already gearing up for the 2000 season with spring practice and an exhibition spring season. And the Tide has named its captain.

Sophomore defender Dawn Battle was named by Alabama Head Coach Don Staley to lead the team both on and off the field this season.

"After much consideration, it was evident that Dawn was the right choice," Staley said. "Dawn has so many assets that any coach would want her to lead the team."

Battle missed the majority of the '99 season due to a torn knee ligament. She suffered the injury only five games into the season. "It was hard for Dawn to watch from the sidelines due to the injury," Staley said. "But she grew so much during that time, that I believe she will do a great job in leading us to a successful campaign."

Staley also received a bit of good news from Tuscaloosa native Latonda Eubanks. Eubanks made the decision to return to the Crimson Tide program as a fifth-year senior. A natural goalie who saw most of her minutes in the field last season due to a rash of injuries, Eubanks will return to battle for the goalkeeper spot.

Bama was to begin its spring season February 26, hosting its own Bama Classic with Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Birmingham-Southern and Jacksonville State also participating.

Phoned In A Win

Senior Day was special in several ways for the Alabama men's and women's swimming and diving teams. It hasn't been a great year for the Tide under new coach Don Wagner. The men were 2-5 in dual meets and the women 4-4 and both teams finished seventh in the SEC Championships. But both squads took a win on Senior Day, the final home meet of the year, when the Tide faced South Carolina.

Well, actually, Bama didn't face the Gamecocks. Because of icy weather in the Southeast, South Carolina couldn't make it to the meet in Tuscaloosa. And so the respective teams swam and dived in their own pools, then compared results in a post-meet telephone call. The result was Alabama men winning 132-109 and the Tide women posting a 145-88 decision.

Tide Is Clobbered By Injury Bug

by Chris Olds

Half the team has spent time on the bench in 2000 as injuries took their toll

The Y2K Bug may not have created chaos around the world, but a bug of a different sort has plagued the Alabama men's basketball team. This 1999-2000 season hasn't been one to remember for its battles on the parquet floor of Coleman Coliseum. Instead, the battle has been to put players on the court after the Injury Bug took half of the Crimson Tide's scholarship players out of the lineup for several games late this year.

By mid-February, Bama's 12 scholarship players included only six above the level of walking wounded. Bama's game roster included two walk-ons and, of the six remaining scholarship players, four freshmen and two juniors with a combined 11 collegiate starts. With March Madness now approaching in the form of the Southeastern Conference Tournament in Atlanta March 9-12, the Tide is looking to regain its strength and regroup for a possible upset run in the post-season.

"We want to finish strong, and if we have enough people to do that, we'll find out if we can," said Head Coach Mark Gottfried. Gottfried has never had a losing season as a head coach, assistant or player, but Bama is certainly on the brink this year. "I think the guys that can play will play really hard and hopefully we can get on a roll where we can win some games and go into the SEC Tournament with a lot of momentum," the coach said. "Our schedule is a difficult one, but that's what we're hoping for."

Many of the hopes for a young, but talent-laden Alabama squad were dashed early. Senior center Jeremy Hays tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his left leg on November 27. With a career-high 26 points on the scoreboard one minute into the second half, the stabilizing ligament within the center of Hays' knee tore, and his senior season was over. In the weeks following the game, Tide fans and coaches were disappointed with the SEC's leading rebounder from 1999 on the bench. However, the good news is that a battle-hardened group of players next season will be re-joined by the 6-10

star, who will be granted a redshirt season and return for a fifth year in 2000-2001. Additionally, more talented newcomers will be arriving, notably Gerald Wallace, the top high school player in the country who signed with Alabama in November.

Three months after his December 1 surgery, Hays said he is rehabilitating daily and itching to return to a healthy, experienced lineup with even more talent next season.

"My knee is doing great," Hays said. "Doctor (Les) Fowler said it couldn't look any better and it feels really strong. (Alabama trainer) John (Morr) said I am ahead of 90 per cent of ACL patients, so I look at that as doing very well. Every day I go in and rehab it to get as strong as I can so it doesn't hinder me at all."

"We are going to have a real good line-up next year. We'll be 10 or 11 deep. And you can't put a price on the experience that these guys are getting this year," Hays said. "It's going to help them out in those tight SEC games next year and as we advance, as I expect, to the NCAA Tournament next year, that will be crucial."

With Hays out for the year, highly-recruited 6-9, 214-pound freshman center Kenny Walker stepped into the starting lineup for eight games, including a 16-point, 11-rebound performance against Louisville. But then Walker had to undergo surgery on January 13 to repair a stress fracture in his left tibia. With a metal rod inserted in his leg, Walker was expected to miss six to eight weeks, which had Bama hoping for a return by late February.

"My injury is coming along great and healing the way I want it to, but all I can do on the bench is motivate those guys on the court and try to play a positive role for them," said Walker, who averaged 8.1 points and 5.6 rebounds a game before the injury. "It has really brought our team together and we're stronger knowing how to handle situations with as few as six or seven guys out on the floor. Those times are hard, but those are the times to stick it out. That's all you can do."

"It hurts for me because out of the whole group (of injured players) there are three or four who may not be back 100 percent. I feel as the pressure is on me to get back, and I hope to come back strong," Walker said. "I want to finish out my freshman year thinking that I did pretty good, and next year I hope to be stronger and more versatile."

Tide trainer John Morr said Walker is progressing well, but with his type of injury rushing back to the lineup is simply not an option.

"His guideline is pain and where it is located, which is normal," Morr said. "He's progressing very well. I'd like to have him back sooner, but everybody heals at a different rate and everything is looking fine. His last X-ray showed that it was healing normally, but not as fast as we would like and yet we don't want to subject him to another injury."

Walker's injury left only 6-8 sophomore forward/center Sam Haginas and 6-8 freshman Erwin Dudley as a presence in the paint for Alabama. Gottfried had only three weeks of that luxury before Haginas severely sprained his left shoulder in a collision with Dudley during practice on January 24. Haginas missed two games and returned to the lineup only to reinjure his shoulder against LSU on February 4. Haginas remained day-to-day for Alabama's mid-February games, finally returning in a limited capacity in mid-February in a game against Kentucky in Lexington.

"It's hard to watch eight guys out there busting their rears in practice because you want to be out there and helping them," said Haginas, who averaged 5.5 points and 3.5 rebounds a game before the injury. "It's especially tough when there's six of us on the bench during games. I just can't wait to get back and help them at full strength."

Morr said Haginas' injury has been an enigma, but said he will regain his strength and flexibility throughout the remainder of the season.

"Sam is doing OK, but he has pain and that's his biggest limitation," Morr said. "We have done bone scans, MRIs, CT scans, X-rays and followed up on a weekly basis with these diagnostics tests and none of that is working out right now. It's frustrating when you can't overcome the pain to be able to perform at the level he wants to perform at."

With three players out, the Tide's practice length and depth for five-on-five live action during practices became a concern for Gottfried. "We have had to shorten our practices a lot, and we have cut down on how much of the live, competitive things that we have done," Gottfried said. "We did this because of fatigue, since we have to keep our guys fresh, and because I have been cautious to not have another player get hurt. We have gotten to the point where we can't afford a sprained ankle."

The lack of depth with injuries also made redshirt freshman Travis Stinnett's November 29 surgery even more painful for the team. Stinnett redshirted last season



Alabama's injured have filled up the bench for much of this year. Tiders in street clothes in a recent game are (left to right): Alfred Moss, Kenny Walker, Sam Haginas, Jeremy Hays, Travis Stinnet, and Schea Cotton. A busy team doctor, Jimmy Robinson, talks to Moss. University of Alabama Photo by Kent Gidley

with an injury to his pelvis, which continued to hinder him and trainer John Morr into this season.

"His original diagnosis was inflammation of the pubic joint, a kind of arthritis like where knees and shoulders ache," Morr said. "We searched and searched and searched, and everyone had the same diagnosis, but his pain continued. Finally we ran into a physician who said, 'I know a guy who knows a guy,' and then through networking with a doctor in Boston he has had success with this surgery.

"He doesn't have any of the pain he had previously," Morr said. "Right now it looks pretty good. Will he be able to get back to his previous level of productivity? I don't know. But he's probably 50-75 per cent in his (pre-injury) activity level."

With four players on the 14-man roster sidelined, Gottfried had just enough players for a full practice until Alabama's game with Auburn on February 2, when 6-8 senior Alfred Moss was fouled hard when going to the basket and fell to the floor. With the fall, Moss fractured a traverse process on the third vertebrae in his back—an injury that basically needs time to heal, according to Morr.

"Alfred is progressing well, but there's not much we can do," Morr said. "It's a little bone on the side of his vertebrae and it just snapped off, so we have to let it heal."

With the leading senior in Hays gone for the year, the leadership on the floor, at least offensively, fell to sophomore Schea Cotton, who averaged 16.4 points a game before also succumbing to injury with a severe blister

on the bottom of his left foot that grew progressively worse late in the season. Cotton missed the Arkansas and Vanderbilt games and then was limited by having missed two weeks of practice. He began his comeback against Kentucky, but saw only a few minutes of action.

"You have nicks here and there but my foot just got a little out of hand," Cotton said. "It was just a matter of time before I had to take some time off since it is something you can't avoid. First and foremost for this team we need to get healthy. We were forced to pull together and that just makes you stronger."

The injury situation made one Alabama victory all the more sweeter. Bama hosted Vanderbilt, ranked 22nd in the nation, on February 12 and handed the Commodores a 77-63 loss. While the win was a reward for an ailing team and a win dedicated to assistant coach Robert Scott, who missed the contest due to his battle with stomach cancer, the losses of players throughout the season and the fight of Scott were still on the minds of Gottfried and Morr.

"We have just had a really unusual time," Gottfried said. "I have never been around this many injuries at one time, but I think our guys have responded pretty good and they have played real hard. They are doing everything that they can."

"It would probably be more stressful here if I didn't have the experience of working with Kermit Koenig and Robert Scott and

their fight with cancer," Morr said. Koenig is a former Tide assistant coach now working in the athletics development office, while Scott, a former star player for Bama, is a current assistant coach. "Those guys are so inspiring to me. This (basketball) is important to the kids and its important to me, but it's not important to life overall when you know what those guys are going through. It's frustrating, but you deal with it and keep an upbeat attitude."

Koenig was diagnosed with cancer in the fall of 1997, while Scott's cancer was discovered last September and had not kept him from coaching from the sidelines, despite his pain.

Gottfried said he talked with John Wooden, his mentor while an assistant coach at UCLA, about the struggles in the program this season, but said he knew what he would hear from the legendary coach.

"He told me to hang in there because you don't want to go away from your philosophy," Gottfried said. "You want to stick with what you have been doing and as you get your players back and they grow up—since we have had injuries on top of all of the youth—it will be okay. We have had our growing pains all at one time, but that's okay."

Morr said the struggles of his fourth season as a Tide trainer have been stressful, but simultaneously one of his most rewarding seasons of his career. "It's not something that anyone in our profession looks forward to at all. This has been

the worst and best," Morr said. "The bad part is that these kids aren't able to play. The best is the challenge for me to stay positive and help each kid progress as best he can. It keeps me busy and it's never a slow day.

"I have probably fallen in love with these kids more than any other team just because of their personality," Morr said. "They are growing up every game. When you come in here to perform at a certain level that you and others expect, that's a lot of pressure. When you have these numbers go down, you get even more pressure."

With the pressure to perform handed to juniors Terrance "Doc" Martin and Tarik London, along with Dudley, Rod Grizzard and Terrance Meade as the starters during the injury stretch, the Tide's youth have quietly become some of the most productive freshmen in Tide history and rank highly in the SEC.

Through 22 games, Grizzard was 20th in the SEC in scoring with 12.1 ppg., while Cotton ranked fourth. Dudley's 9.7 rebounds a game against SEC opponents leads the conference, while he has also totaled more than 200 rebounds, numbers that rank with the likes of Roy Rogers (299 in 1996),

Robert Horry (296 in 1992), and Reggie King (265 in 1976). Former Tide star and current NBA player Derrick McKey averaged only 4.1 rebounds as a freshman in 1985. Dudley also averaged 11.1 points per game through 22 games this season.

At that same time, Meade averaged 11.4 points and ranked fourth in the SEC for three-pointers made, while leading the SEC in three-point field goal percentage in conference games.

Martin, who played only 338 minutes last season after his second knee surgery in as many years, averaged 6.9 points a game and clocked 537 minutes in Alabama's first 22 games. Martin sparked the Tide with 19 points in the win over Vanderbilt. Although London still is prone to turnovers, he has become an excellent assist man with a favorable percentage of assists to turnovers.

Another of the young players to develop during the injury lull was Jim Bakken, a junior walk-on who didn't even play varsity basketball until his senior year of high school. Bakken, who totaled 11 minutes of playing time in 11 games during the first half of the season, played 21 minutes against Arkansas, and scored eight points while

adding a pair of rebounds. He was Alabama's unlikely sixth man.

While the youth has had the opportunity to develop for the Crimson Tide this season, all but Hays are anticipated back by the SEC Tournament.

"I think in every situation that even with negative things there can be positives," Gottfried said. "We've got freshmen like Erwin (Dudley), (Rod) Grizzard and (Terrance) Meade, who have gotten a lot of minutes and have produced on the road in some tough environments. Most of our young players, the guys that are healthy, have done a terrific job."

Hays, who never missed a game in three years until this season, said he thinks Gottfried has also done a terrific job and hopes for the same from the team in March.

"Coach Gottfried has been up-beat about this season. He could have given the team a negative atmosphere," Hays said. "He gave the team a lot of motivation and they have overcome a lot of obstacles this year, more so than any team I have ever seen. He tells us that we still have a shot and we do. If we keep playing hard and get hot we could do well. Stranger things have happened."

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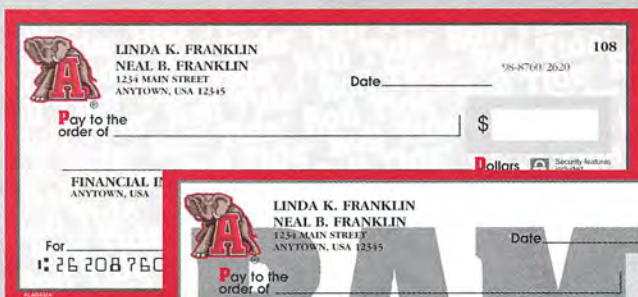
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Championship Building Continues

by Kirk McNair

Bama has veteran team, but must identify players

Alabama Head Football Coach Mike DuBose pointed out that when the Crimson Tide has spring practice this year, "We won't have to re-invent the wheel." By that he means that Bama has its offensive and defensive plans in place and has a large number of experienced players who know those schemes. Additionally, the coaching staff is intact from last year. DuBose said, "More so than any other spring, we can go out and run our offense and defense, doing what we've already got in, not having to learn something new."

Good thing, too. The truth is, it's almost impossible now to do what once was done during spring football practice. Old timers talk about returning from the Rose Bowl and going straight into practice that, to hear them tell it, lasted until the next season's kickoff. Up until a few years ago teams had 20 practices, all of which could be full gear affairs. That meant wholesale changes could be made in schemes while also developing players. It was also a time for experimentation, trying players at various spots. But that was then.

By comparison, spring practice today might seem more like spring vacation. The rules of spring football are a total of 15 practices, three of which must be total non-contact teaching days and only four of which (including the spring game) can be full gear, 11-on-11, scrimmage-type workouts.

Alabama spring practice this year is scheduled to begin March 13, get an interruption for The University's spring break from March 25 through April 2, and conclude with the A-Day Game on April 15.

Because of the limits, it's difficult to both put in schemes and develop players. So, with Bama being something of a veteran team, the suggestion is that spring drills are most beneficial in identifying and developing players.

Ellis Johnson, Alabama's defensive coordinator, said, "Spring training is so limited now that we have to spend all our time looking for players instead of teaching. We don't have time to develop schemes and develop players at the same time. We have to identify the players who are going to step in and teach them fundamentals."

Alabama isn't taking anything for granted. After last season's Southeastern Conference championship season and Orange Bowl ap-

pearance, a 10-3 season and final ranking of eighth in the nation, DuBose said, "I told the team that this will be the toughest off-season and the toughest spring we have had. We're going to demand a lot out of them." The Tide coach explained that while players and coaches have done an excellent job in reaching this level, "The next step is more difficult and we have to work harder."

Much of that work in the spring involves individual work, one-on-one pass coverages, one-on-one pass rush and protection, one-on-one blocking drills, work on tackling and on shedding blocks.

Since the team's return from the Orange Bowl, the entire squad has been working hard under the direction of Strength and Conditioning Coach Terry Jones to get stronger and more agile. Offensive Coordinator and Line Coach Neil Callaway is pleased with the team's progress. However, the work must continue. "When Mike (DuBose) first got in here he put Terry Jones in charge with Steve Martin to assist and that really helped move us forward trying to make everyone bigger and stronger," Callaway said. "I think Terry and his staff have done a great job of demanding that the guys work and do things they're supposed to do. I think we're in good shape there. You've got to allow time for that progress to happen. And it has started to kick in."

"You can always look to get stronger and improve, especially with the young kids just coming into the program. But I do think we're at the point with some guys where agility may be most important. We're always going to work with weights. But some individuals will need to work as much on agility as weights."

One obvious problem in getting work done in spring practice is the lack of personnel. The seniors have departed and the signees (for the most part) have not arrived. Additionally, a handful of players will miss all or part of spring practice as they recover from injuries.

That means that much of the time, as Johnson said, "A scout teamer is lined up against a guy who is going to be a pro draft choice, so what happens insofar as production is concerned in that situation is misleading."

An area of concern this spring is the defensive line. Three defensive linemen—Cornelius Griffin, Reggie Grimes, and Jamie Carter—were seniors. Additionally, Kenny Smith and Sam Matthews will be limited. "We're going to be thin there," DuBose said. "Some walk-on guys are going to get an opportunity to compete for playing time." Those walk-ons will get playing time because the only healthy bodies in the defen-

sive line going into spring practice are Kindal Moorehead, Kenny King, Jarret Johnson, Kelvis White (himself a candidate for limitations because of a history of injuries), Todd Whitmore, Derek Sanders, Leslie Williams, and newcomer Garry McNealy. To some extent, Bama will be able to work a few men both at end and tackle, but it is at tackle that a lack of depth is most serious.

While that may seem like a reasonable number of defensive linemen, consider that Alabama must provide the men for two teams in a normal spring game. It's not inconceivable that a lack of personnel at some positions—and defensive line leaps to mind—could result in the annual Red-White game being no more than an offense vs. defense scrimmage.

Alabama returns two all-star candidates at linebacker, but the goal in spring practice will be to find a third starter and depth. The all-star candidates are Saleem Rasheed, who filled in at middle linebacker in the final part of 1999, but who will return to strong-side linebacker this year, and weakside linebacker Darius Gilbert. Starting out number one at middle linebacker will be Victor Ellis. There will be great interest in junior college transfer Aries Monroe, who came out of Coffeyville (Kansas) Junior College in time to take part in off-season work. Monroe is 6-3, about 230, and in conditioning drills did his running with the likes of track stars Shontua Ray and Jason McAddley. DuBose said that Monroe may be best suited to playing outside linebacker, as will Chris Horne and Jason Cox. However, it would not be a big surprise if the three best linebackers end up as first teamers, even if it means moving an outside man to the middle. Marvin Constant may return to claim that spot in the fall, but Bama has to prepare as though Constant will not be able to come back from his very serious knee injury. Jeremy Walker, a back-up middle linebacker last year as a true freshman, will shift back to fullback this spring because back-up fullback Marvin Brown has been suspended for the spring.

Everyone returns in the secondary. Everyone. Ten men who have playing experience. But that doesn't mean they are just going to go through the motions. "We've got to find a couple of guys at corner who can cover man-to-man and we've got to find some safeties who will make plays on the football in the air," Johnson said. Bama will start out as the Tide finished last year with Milo Lewis at left cornerback, Gerald Dixon at right cornerback, Marcus Spencer and Tony Dixon at strong safety, and Reggie Myles at safety. Kecal Bailey and Hirschel Bolden have experience at cornerback, Phillip Weeks and Jason Jones at safety.

Shontua Ray hasn't had much game experience at cornerback, but he's had a couple of years of practice and he has proved on special teams that he can run and hit. Tyler Harris at safety and Roberto McBride at cornerback are other candidates.

One reason Bama has to develop quality depth in the secondary is that Tide schemes regularly call for the use of five and even six defensive backs. If the Tide could develop a good safety, Myles could return to cornerback, but he's considered much better at safety.

The offense lost only two starters, but what starters they were. Shaun Alexander set almost every Alabama rushing record and was the SEC Player of the Year. And he did much of his running behind tackle Chris Samuels, winner of the Outland Award as the nation's top lineman.

The Orange Bowl gave something of a hint of what will be done to replace Samuels since the All-America missed that game with a knee injury that eventually required knee surgery. That 35-34 overtime loss to the Wolverines should also have sent a warning

about not having back-up performers ready to play. In that game sophomore-to-be Dante Ellington went from right tackle, where he had started all year, to Samuels' spot at left tackle. Lannis Baxley, a redshirt freshman, got most of the snaps at right tackle, with Bart Raulston, also a redshirt freshman, getting a few. Between them, the tackles had enough penalties and missed assignments to cost Bama the game.

DuBose said that Baxley would start out number one at right tackle with Raulston behind him. Ellington will remain at left tackle. And in one of the few experiments planned for the spring, little-used defensive end Shaun Williams will shift to left tackle on offense.

Otherwise, Alabama has a line of veterans with Griff Redmill a two-year starter at left guard, Will Cuthbert a returning starter at right guard who previously had been a starter at tackle, and Paul Hogan the returning All-SEC center, a three-year starter. The problem is depth. The starters in the offensive line have played almost every snap for the past two years. This spring DuBose is hopeful that some back-ups can begin to

make a move towards playing time. An experienced back-up enables a team to keep fresh players in the game and also guards against injury to a starter. But, as DuBose has pointed out, he is not going to substitute just for the sake of substitution if the number two (or three) man hasn't proved that he deserves the opportunity to play.

The Tide head coach expects the likes of center Alonzo Ephraim, Marico Portis, who could be a center or guard, redshirt guards Dennis Alexander and Matt Lomax to contend for playing time. And he is not totally discounting the possibility of McNealy (who is ineligible for games in 2000) ending up on the offensive side.

Another spring experiment will involve redshirt freshman Casey Gilbert, who came to Bama as a tight end candidate but who may be more suited to guard or tackle. Gilbert will get his first shot at tight end, but could see spring work in the interior, too. That's because Bama returns the two men who did almost all of the playing at tight end last year, two-year starter Terry Jones, Jr., and Shawn Draper. Additionally, Theo Sanders is a tight end. Tide coaches have given lip service over the past few years to making the tight end more a part of the offense as a receiver, but until the tight ends demonstrate better consistency as pass-catchers they are likely to continue to be used primarily as blockers.

DuBose is committed to having an offense that spreads the field horizontally and vertically. Although his assistant coaches have said they are also committed to that scheme, at times the Tide offense has eschewed the run (even with Alexander at tailback) and the offense has rarely challenged the defense with deep passes.

Still, the success of Bama offensively will almost certainly depend on Alabama being able to run the football. And that means finding a successor to Alexander at tailback. The starting depth chart in the spring will be the same as a class ranking: Shaun Bohanon, an upcoming senior who was the back-up to Alexander last season, will be number one, followed by third-year soph Ahmaad Galloway, soph Santonio Beard, and redshirt freshman Brandon Miree.

Of those, the greatest expectations among fans are for Miree, who has been described as a bigger, faster, stronger Alexander. The highly-regarded star from Cincinnati hasn't been seen much by Ivy Williams, who coaches running backs. That's because Miree spent last fall as the scout team tailback, working against the first defense. But Williams has heard about Miree from the defensive coaches, who saw Miree excel against Tide defenders. And DuBose has seen plenty of Miree.

All-star teams now ordinarily name two running backs instead of a tailback and a fullback. That policy keeps a guy like Dustin McClintock from getting any plaques. But



Saleem Rasheed was an outstanding performer as a freshman, moving from outside linebacker to middle linebacker late in the season. He will be back at his natural outside spot this spring and in 2000.

Barry Fikes Photo

McClintock is an outstanding fullback, an exceptional blocker, a player who can get some tough yards when needed and also capable of catching a pass. He's back to start for the third year. His back-up, Marvin Brown, was suspended for the spring. That means that Jeremy Walker, who played sparingly at linebacker and as a member of the special teams as a freshman last year, will move to fullback, the position for which he was actually recruited.

Although there were some losses from the 1999 team at wide receiver, it's almost as if those who were unlikely to make the home run play are gone and those capable of making such plays could now have more opportunities to shine. While Tim Bowens and Shamari Buchanan had their moments before finishing their careers last season, speed merchants like Freddie Milons, Jason McAddley and Antonio Carter will now head up the wide receiver corps. Sam Collins and Arvin Richard have some experience and Brandon Greer moves up after a redshirt freshman year. And it could be that a relatively unknown transfer, Michael James, will be a factor. James, a walk-on on the scout team last fall, has exceptional speed. There had been some talk during last season of Hirschel Bolden moving from cornerback to wide receiver this spring, but DuBose said that was unlikely to happen.

The most important position on a football team is that of quarterback, and Bama has both of its first team men returning. Andrew Zow is really the first-teamer, basically a two-year starter since taking over midway through his redshirt freshman season in 1998. Tyler Watts, a redshirt freshman last fall, did very well in relief of Zow and by the end of the season was considered a co-first teamer, actually getting about half the snaps as Alabama came up with a scheme whereby Zow and Watts alternated series. While it would seem that other teams would do this if it was a good idea, the proof is in the pudding, and Alabama offense has been effective with Zow and Watts sharing duties.

However, that doesn't mean DuBose is completely satisfied. "We need to get to a new level," he said. "The quarterback needs to be a coach on the field for us. We need him to see the match-ups and get us into good plays and out of bad plays." As DuBose noted, it's a two-fold operation, one that Bama should have the experience to perform. The offensive line has to get its scheme called (usually by the center) and then the quarterback knowing whether to stay with the called play or change it.

Last spring Alabama spent much of its practice time with Eric Locke taking snaps, ordinarily in spread (shotgun) formation. Then a funny thing happened on the way to the 1999 season. Locke transferred to Tennessee. Without benefit of spring, it turned out that Alabama had a better man for the job of special play quarterback.



Freddie Milons was Mr. Everything for Alabama as a pass receiver, runner, passer and kick return man. Obviously, he's a key man in Alabama's offense. Barry Fikes Photo

Freddie Milons, the starting split end, turned out to be very effective in that special offense, including being named Most Valuable Player in leading Bama to victory in the SEC Championship Game. This year Milons will get some more practice time in that role in the second half of spring practice.

DuBose had also been anxious to see Josh Parker, the redshirt freshman who had missed most of last fall after undergoing knee surgery. Unfortunately, while working out in the weight room, Parker reinjured the knee and is considered doubtful for the spring. Luke Tucker and Jonathan Richey, both of whom handled scout team duties last year, are other quarterback candidates.

Although most think of the kickers when the talk turns to special teams, there is much more to it than that. In the actual kicking functions there are snappers and holders on place-kicks and a snapper on punts. But there are also players who must receive and return kicks and who must protect for the kicker and who must cover kicks and attempt to block kicks.

Because so many of those adjunct players come from newcomers, most special teams personnel will not be identified in the spring. But Bama does have its long snapper back from last year in Bradley Ledbetter. In all probability, the man who wins the punting job will also be the holder. Bama also has its primary kick return men back in Milons (punts and kickoffs) and Arvin Richard.

Although it's possible that someone coming in next fall will be able to wrest one or more of the kicking jobs away from returning players, DuBose wants to have a clear first team punter and place-kicker when spring drills end.

The likely punter candidates to replace Patrick Morgan are Lane Bearden (who was also the kickoff man) and Jason Kellen. The place-kicker candidates attempting to take over for Ryan Pflugner on extra points and field goals are Jason Kemp (who kicked early last year while Pflugner recovered from injury), redshirt freshman Danny Haynes, Mark Wisniewski who did kickoff work in 1998 but didn't see action last year, and a walk-on from junior college, Mac Hart.

2000 Alabama Spring Football Roster

(This roster is subject to change. This roster may not include every player who will be on the field during spring practice.)

Name, Pos	Hgt	Wgt	Cl	Exp	Hometown	Name, Pos	Hgt	Wgt	Cl	Exp	Hometown
Dennis Alexander, RG	6-5	315	Fr	RS	Memphis, Tenn.	*Sam Matthews, DT	6-6	291	Jr	Sq	Jacksonville, Fla.
Joel Babb, FS	6-0	173	So	Sq	Phenix City	Jason McAddley, FL	6-2	194	Jr	2L	Oak Ridge, Tenn.
Waine Bacon, LCB	5-10	170	SO	Sq	Forrestville, Md.	Roberto McBride, RCB	5-9	165	So	Sq	Lakeland, Fla.
Kecalf Bailey, RCB	5-10	164	Sr	3L	Tuscaloosa	Dustin McClintock, FB	6-3	271	Sr	3L	Quinlan, Texas
Chad Barron, PK	6-2	209	Jr	Sq	Marietta, Ga.	Chauvon McFadden, LDE	6-3	274	Jr	Sq	Herndon, Va.
David Barron, MLB	6-2	215	Sr	Sq	Marietta, Ga.	Garry McNealy, DL	6-4	285	Fr	HS	Perry, Fla.
Lannis Baxley, RT	6-6	295	So	1L	Waynesboro, Ga.	Freddie Milons, SE	5-11	183	Jr	2L	Starkville, Miss.
Santonio Beard, TB	6-1	205	So	Sq	Nashville, Tenn.	Mark Miller, QB	6-1	200	Fr	RS	Gadsden
Lane Bearden, P	6-0	180	So	1L	Helena	Scott Mimms, RT	6-5	265	Jr	Sq	Bowdon, Ga.
Shaun Bohanon, TB	6-2	215	Sr	1L	Oak Ridge, Tenn.	Brandon Miree, TB	6-2	228	Fr	RS	Cincinnati, Ohio
Hirchel Bolden, RCB	5-10	190	So	1L	Dothan	Aries Monroe, SLB	6-3	220	Jr	JC	Tallahassee, Fla.
Dennis Bonga, SE	6-3	197	So	Sq	Tallahassee, Fla.	Eric Moore, RCB	5-10	180	So	Sq	Mobile
Pat Boylan, OL	6-4	275	Sr	Sq	Bedford, N.H.	Stephen Moore, FL	6-1	170	So	Sq	Double Springs
Corey Bryan, SLB	6-1	210	Jr	Sq	Andalusia	Kindal Moorehead, LDE	6-3	293	Jr	2L	Memphis, Tenn.
John Caldwell, TB	5-11	190	Fr	RS	Hoover	Reggie Myles, S	5-11	185	Jr	2L	Pascagoula, Miss.
Antonio Carter, FL	5-9	190	So	1L	Tallahassee, Fla.	Glenn Newman, MLB	6-2	230	Fr	RS	Shelbyville, Tenn.
Clifton Carter, TB	5-10	185	So	Sq	Theodore	Gresham Oliver, FB	5-9	205	Fr	RS	Birmingham
Sam Collins, SE	6-1	180	So	1L	Fayette	Kyler O'Neill, FS	6-1	180	Fr	RS	Birmingham
*Marvin Constant, MLB	6-1	245	So	1L	Tuscaloosa	*Josh Parker, QB	6-4	205	Fr	RS	Crawfordville, Fla.
Adam Cox, SLB	6-1	208	Jr	2L	Jasper	Marico Portis, C-LG	6-2	300	So	1L	Prichard
Keema Curry, TE	6-5	270	So	Sq	Alpine	Tripp Powell, SN	6-0	255	So	Sq	Tuscaloosa
Will Cuthbert, RG	6-5	329	Sr	3L	Ft. Pierce, Fla.	Trumaine Pruitt, CB	5-11	165	Fr	Sq	Aliceville
Gerald Dixon, LCB	5-11	185	So	1L	Burtonsville, Md.	Richard Randolph, LCB	5-11	175	So	Sq	Decatur, Ga.
Tony Dixon, SS-S	6-2	203	Sr	3L	Reform	Saleem Rasheed, WLB	6-3	220	So	1L	Birmingham
Shawn Draper, TE	6-4	294	Sr	3L	Huntsville	Bart Raulston, RT	6-9	337	So	1L	Sylvania
Joel Dunn, OL	6-3	305	Sr	Sq	Birmingham	Shontua Ray, LCB	5-10	202	Jr	1L	Montevallo
Rob Egan, SE	6-4	200	So	Sq	Henderson, Ky.	Griff Redmill, LG	6-6	301	Sr	3L	Jasper
Dante Ellington, LT	6-6	335	So	1L	Leighton	R.J. Reed, SS	5-10	180	So	Sq	Tallahassee, Fla.
Victor Ellis, MLB	6-2	231	Jr	2L	Chattanooga, Tenn.	Arvin Richard, SE	5-7	178	Sr	3L	Atlanta
Alonzo Ephraim, C	6-3	280	So	Sq	Birmingham	Jonathan Richey, QB	6-1	210	Jr	Sq	Geraldine
Joseph Faavae, LB	5-11	230	Sr	Sq	Carson, Calif.	Nick Ridings, SN	6-0	225	Fr	RS	Marietta, Ga.
Corey Ferguson, DB	5-10	165	So	Sq	Montgomery	Jeremy Sadow, TE	6-6	210	Fr	RS	Jupiter, Fla.
John Fielding, FS	6-3	188	Jr	Sq	Augusta, Ga.	Derek Sanders, RDE	6-4	277	So	Sq	Sandersville, Ga.
Mitch Fowler, PK	6-0	210	So	Sq	Vestavia	Theo Sanders, TE	6-3	240	So	Sq	Birmingham
Ahmaad Galloway, TB	6-1	212	So	1L	Millington, Tenn.	Trey Sanders, CB	5-11	195	Fr	RS	Fairfield
John Gartman, SE	6-4	175	Jr	Sq	Camden	Rob Saucier, SLB	5-10	220	So	Sq	Mobile
Casey Gilbert, TE	6-4	270	Fr	RS	Pascagoula, Miss.	Ricky Shoop, PK	5-9	175	Jr	Sq	Shannon, Miss.
Darius Gilbert, SLB	6-2	235	Jr	2L	Oxford	Randall Shultz, LT	6-5	330	Fr	RS	Saltip
Brandon Greer, SE	6-2	195	Fr	RS	Rainbow City	Karlton Smith, LDE	6-2	270	So	Sq	Demopolis
Chad Handley, SE	6-0	180	Jr	Sq	Columbiana	*Kenny Smith, DT	6-5	286	Sr	3L	Meridian, Miss.
Tyler Harris, SS	6-1	210	Fr	RS	Clinton, Tenn.	Marcus Spencer, SS	6-2	194	Sr	3L	York
John Mark Harrison, WR	5-11	160	Fr	RS	Gardendale	Lance Taylor, WR	5-9	174	Fr	RS	Mt. Vernon
Mac Hart, PK	5-9	195	Jr	JC	McComb, Miss.	Patrick Tate, TE	6-3	224	So	Sq	Ft. Payne
Danny Haynes, PK	5-10	200	Fr	RS	Killen	Derrick Thomas, S	6-3	186	Jr	Sq	Tuscaloosa
Paul Hogan, C	6-4	275	Sr	3L	Valdosta, Ga.	Lendell Townsend, MLB	6-0	220	So	Sq	Prattville
Reid Holley, PK	5-10	170	So	Sq	Mobile	Luke Tucker, QB	5-11	177	So	Sq	Fayette
Allen Hollie, LDT	6-0	276	Jr	Sq	Atlanta, Ga.	O.J. Vance, LCB	5-8	170	So	Sq	Antioch, Tenn.
Pat Hollingsworth, LT	6-1	306	So	Sq	Baton Rouge, La.	David Voyles, TE	6-5	270	So	Sq	Ripley, Miss.
Chris Horne, WLB	6-1	221	Sr	3L	Sandersville, Ga.	Mal Waldrep, C	6-4	276	Jr	Sq	Columbus, Ga.
Jamie Hunter, TE	6-3	221	Jr	Sq	Daphne	Jeremy Walker, FB	6-3	250	So	1L	Prattville
Stanley Jackson, OLB	6-4	241	Jr	Sq	Auburn	Thad Walker, SS	5-10	175	So	Sq	Montevallo
Michael James, WR	5-11	170	Jr	Tr	Tuscaloosa	Rashad Watkins, OLB	5-9	205	Fr	RS	Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Jarret Johnson, DT	6-4	268	So	1L	Chieffland, Fla.	Tyler Watts, QB	6-3	214	So	1L	Pelham
Charles Jones, FS	6-1	180	Fr	RS	Waynesboro, Ga.	Phillip Weeks, SS	6-1	165	Jr	1L	Lake Butler, Fla.
Jason Jones, FS	5-11	180	Sr	2L	Tuscaloosa	Wesley Welch, SN	6-3	178	Jr	Sq	Monroeville
Paul Jones, WLB	6-1	220	Jr	Sq	Northport	Kelvis White, NT	6-4	291	Sr	2L	Courtland
Terry Jones, Jr., TE	6-3	262	Jr	2L	Tuscaloosa	Todd Whitmore, NT	6-5	300	Sr	Sq	Ranburne
Jason Kellen, P	6-4	219	Sr	Sq	Tuscaloosa	Jason Wilkins, DB	5-10	160	Fr	RS	Birmingham
Chris Kemp, PK	5-9	171	Sr	1L	Jacksonville, Fla.	Jason Williams, FB	5-11	240	Fr	RS	Fairhope
Danny Kimble, RCB	5-7	180	So	Sq	Gadsden	Leslie Williams, RDE	6-5	225	So	Sq	Stone Mtn., Ga.
Kenny King, RDE	6-4	270	So	1L	Daphne	Shaun Williams, LT	6-5	266	Jr	Sq	Augusta, Ga.
Bradley Ledbetter, SN	6-3	259	Sr	2L	Pelham	Mark Wisniewski, PK	6-1	167	So	1L	Jacksonville, Fla.
Milo Lewis, LCB	6-0	176	Sr	1L	Mtn. View, Calif.	Joe Yount, DE	6-5	257	Jr	Sq	Albertville
Ron Logan, SE	6-0	170	So	Sq	Bedford, Ky.	Andrew Zow, QB	6-2	217	Jr	2L	Lake Butler, Fla.
Matt Lomax, OT	6-4	295	Fr	RS	Mobile						
Kenric Lott, RG	6-5	323	Sr	Sq	Blackshear, Ga.						
Marcus Marshall, FB	5-9	235	So	Sq	Louisville, Ky.						
Ray Marshall, LG	6-5	335	So	Sq	Montevallo						

*Because of injuries, Marvin Constant will not participate in spring practice; Sam Matthews and Kenny Smith will have limited participation. Josh Parker injured a knee in the off-season program and is extremely doubtful for spring work.

Barker Heads A Group Of Greats

by Jason Mayfield

'BAMA readers once again make excellent selections

The readers of 'BAMA are given a challenge each decade, that of choosing the best Alabama football players at each position during the previous 10 years. In some ways, it is an impossible task, but it's difficult to argue with the results. Crimson Tide fans produced in determining the Team of the Decade for the 1970s and 1980s. And now it has been done again, the Team of the Decade for the 1990s.

And the fan favorite is a fan himself.

Jay Barker won the title Player of the Decade by capturing nearly 100 per cent of the vote at the quarterback position. His playing days were spent on some of Alabama's best teams of the decade, including the National Championship team of 1992.

"I started playing at the age of five, and since then it was my dream to play for The University of Alabama," Barker said. "It was dream come true to play there and be a part of so many winning teams. I always felt the wins we had were also for the fans, for bragging rights."

Barker said he turned back into a big fan after his playing days. He still plays football, quarterbacking the Canadian Football League's Toronto Argonauts for the past two years. Barker said he was able to watch two of the 1999 Crimson Tide team's games from Canada on television.

"There's so much tradition there and it was exciting to brag about them up in Toronto," Barker said. "Whenever I hear of awards I've won back home, I just think on how God has really blessed my life. God gave me a pedestal when I played football, and I hope I used it in the best way."

Other positions on the team were not as easy for readers to determine. The closest votes were on defense. Alabama won many games in the decade by the defense setting up the offense for easy scores and good field position so these defensive honorees have earned the right to be announced first.

Four men were selected on the defensive line.

John Copeland and Eric Curry, Defensive Players of the Decade—Copeland and Curry won just about all the hearts of readers, getting marks on almost every ballot. The two defensive ends joined together and stopped the oppo-

nents' rush in 1991 and 1992. Both were consensus All-America as seniors as they led the Crimson Tide to a national title in the 1992 season. Their head coach, Gene Stallings, linked the two in 1992 when he said of Copeland "He's been a super player for us. And when you put Eric Curry with him, then you have a super combination at defensive end."

Shannon Brown—Brown was another outstanding end for the Crimson Tide, an All-Southeastern Conference pick his senior year in 1995. He played at Alabama from 1992-95. The Crimson Tide did not go to a bowl his senior year because of probation, but Brown was invited and participated in the Blue-Gray Classic and the Senior Bowl. The Touchdown Club of Atlanta named him the Defensive Lineman of the Year in 1995.

Cornelius Griffin—Griffin played on the 1998 and 1999 Crimson Tide teams after transferring from Pearl River Community College in Mississippi. Griffin started every game his senior season and was the Crimson Tide's leading tackler among down linemen. He was honored with All-SEC selections.

The defense includes three linebackers.

Lemanski Hall—Hall played at outside linebacker for the Crimson Tide from 1990-93. He started his final two years. Hall led the team in tackles during his



Two of the finest defensive players in Alabama history played together as seniors on the Crimson Tide's 1992 national championship team. John Copeland (left) and Eric Curry made life miserable for opponents. Barry Fikes Photos



Cornelius Griffin emerged as a star of the final Team of the Decade, the 1999 Crimson Tide squad. Barry Fikes Photo

final two years and was first team All-SEC both seasons. He had a career day in 1993 against Mississippi State when he returned a blocked field goal 60 yards for a touchdown and intercepted two passes. *Sporting News* named him Defensive Player of the Week for the effort.

Antonio London— London played outside linebacker for the Crimson Tide from 1989-92. He started his final two years and was All-SEC as a senior. In 1991, London blocked field goals in consecutive games against Tennessee, Mississippi State and LSU. He blocked a total of four field goal attempts in his career.

Dwayne Rudd— Rudd played weakside linebacker for the Crimson Tide from 1994-96, leaving after his junior season to pursue a career in the NFL. He led the 1995 and 1996 teams in tackles. Rudd was chosen SEC Defensive Player of the Year in 1996. Rudd earned the 1997 Outback Bowl's Most Valuable Player trophy. In the game, he returned an interception 88 yards against Michigan. The touchdown turned the score in the Crimson Tide's favor, 10-6, and the team won the game 17-14.

Four men who starred in the defensive backfield were selected.

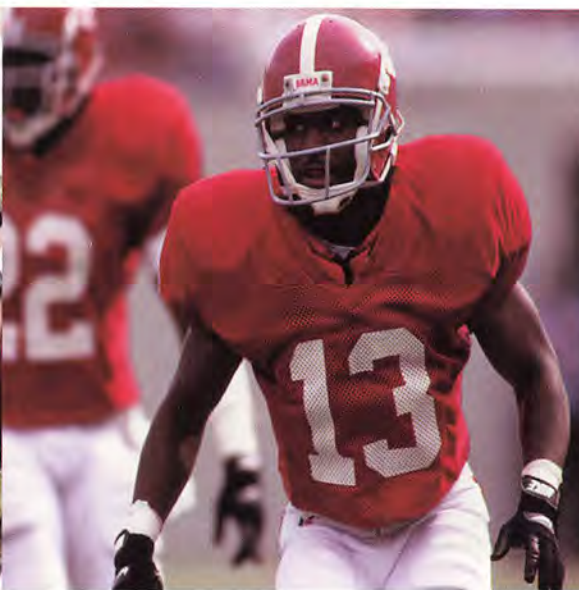
George Teague— Teague was an overwhelming pick in the secondary, in no small part for one of the most memorable plays in storied Alabama history. Teague demoralized Miami players in the National Championship game when he ran down the Hurricanes' fastest receiver, Lamar Thomas, on a long pass and stripped him of the football to prevent a touchdown. The play was called back due to an Alabama penalty, but the Crimson Tide had the momentum and rolled to a 34-13 win. He played safety from 1989-92. Teague intercepted 14 passes in his career and was named an All-SEC pick in 1992. He was named the SEC Defensive Player of the Week against Mississippi State in 1992 after intercepting two fourth-quarter passes to help the Crimson Tide rally and beat the Bulldogs 30-21.

Antonio Langham— Langham played cornerback for the 1990-93 Crimson Tide



Dwayne Rudd had an outstanding career for Bama before taking his skills to the NFL after his junior season. Barry Fikes Photo

teams and set the school's all-time mark for interceptions with 19. He did not play the final two games of his senior season because of improper contact with an agent. Langham was a human-highlight reel at Alabama. He intercepted and returned for a touchdown an Auburn pass in the 1992 Iron Bowl to spark Alabama to a 17-0 win. He intercepted and returned for a touchdown a Florida pass in the 1992 SEC Championship Game to break a tie and send Alabama to a 28-21 win. He won the 1993 Jim Thorpe Award, was a finalist for the *Football News* and FWAA's Defensive Player of the Year, and



Alabama's outstanding defensive backs in the 1990s include Fernando Bryant (25), George Teague (13) and Sam Shade (31), all of whom were strong against both the pass and the run. Barry Fikes Photos



Antonio Langham (left) may have been the finest Tide cornerback ever. Lemanski Hall was an outstanding linebacker for the Tide.
Barry Fikes Photos

was a consensus All-America.

Sam Shade— Shade played at strong safety for the 1991-94 Crimson Tide teams and was All-SEC. He scored a touchdown against LSU his senior season when he recovered a fumble and ran 30 yards. He intercepted a Southern Mississippi pass and returned it for 28 yards in 1994.

Fernando Bryant— Bryant played left cornerback on the 1995-98 Crimson Tide teams. He finished his career with 42 consecutive starts and was a consensus All-SEC pick. He made the *Knoxville*

News-Sentinel All-Freshman Team in 1995. Bryant stopped many an opponent's drive with a key interception, as he did against North Carolina State in 1995 by intercepting a late fourth-quarter pass to preserve the Crimson Tide's win.

Here is the punter for the Team of the Decade:

Daniel Pope— Pope was the Crimson Tide's punter in 1997-98. He was named consensus All-SEC his senior year. Pope had six career punts of 60 yards or more. He made a brief appearance in 1995 with a 33-yard punt against North Texas. Pope

was named a team captain in 1998 and handled the duties of punting and holding for extra points and field-goal attempts. He kicked an almost-perfect onside attempt against LSU in 1998 that the Crimson Tide recovered. Alabama went on to score a touchdown and rally to beat LSU.

The offense has its share of stars, too, including a couple of members of the final team of the 1990s, the 1999 Crimson Tide. Here's a look at these members of the Team of the Decade.

There is no secret about quarterback.

Jay Barker, Offensive Player of the Decade and overall Player of the Decade— Barker was a near-unanimous choice as the play-caller. Barker finished with a 35-2-1 record as the starting quarterback and was a team captain his senior season. He won the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award and was All-SEC and Academic All-SEC. He set the Alabama record for consecutive completions with 11 in a row against Mississippi State in 1994 and also set the school record for passes thrown without an interception with 155 straight in 1994.

The vote at tailback was not a major surprise.

Shaun Alexander— Alexander dominated the balloting for running back, in spite of the Crimson Tide's strength at the position through the decade. Alexander played on the 1996-99 Alabama teams and was one of the team captains on the 1999 squad that went to the Orange Bowl. He currently owns three SEC and 15 Alabama school records. Alexander burst onto the scene for the Crimson Tide in 1996 by rushing for an Alabama record 291 yards in a game against LSU. He was named the SEC Player of the Year his senior season. Alexander was president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Academic All-SEC, as well as All-America.

Although many all-star squads include two running backs, ours has a fullback.

Kevin Turner— Out of sight, but not out of mind. Turner played on the 1988-91 Alabama squads, but fans remembered the important role he played and selected him to the All-Decade team. Turner started 39 games in his career and was named a team captain in his senior season. He made a college and pro career out of



Tide fans picked outstanding offensive backs for the Team of the Decade, fullback Kevin Turner (left) and tailback Shaun Alexander.
Barry Fikes Photos

clearing holes for running backs. Turner could run too. In 1991, he ran for a career-high 143 yards against LSU. In the game, he ran 49 yards for a touchdown. He finished his Alabama days with 1,020 career rushing yards and 11 total touchdowns.

A large number of players received votes at wide receiver.

David Palmer— A.k.a., “The Deuce.” Palmer dazzled Crimson Tide fans from 1991-93 as he played at various times quarterback, flanker and punt returner. He left after his junior season to pursue a NFL career. He was a finalist in the Heisman Trophy balloting in 1993 and was consensus All-America. He won Player of the Week honors by various sponsors in Crimson Tide games against Vanderbilt, LSU, Ole Miss and Florida. Palmer ended his first season with Alabama on a high note by winning the MVP award in the Crimson Tide’s win against Colorado in the Blockbuster Bowl.

Freddie Milons— Milons made the most of his starts in 1999 as he wowed Bama fans to earn All-Decade. Milons played on the 1998-99 teams and will be a junior next season for the Crimson Tide. Milons broke Palmer’s single-season reception total in 1999 with 65 catches. He set an Alabama record with three consecutive games with over 100 yards in receptions in 1999. He was named an All-SEC pick in 1999. Milons showed his worth to the team in the 1999 SEC Championship Game by winning the MVP award. In the title game, he ran for 116 yards and scored a touchdown.

The center on this team was truly the center of attention, as great with a quip as he was as a blocker.

Roger Shultz— Shultz was at the middle of the action for the Crimson Tide from 1987-90. He got an early start on the line by playing in every game his freshman year in 1987. Shultz was a constant from his freshman year on and had developed a crowd of admirers by his junior season. He was named All-SEC pick as a junior and senior and helped guide Alabama to an SEC Championship and a berth in the Sugar Bowl his junior year. He was a senior under first-year Head Coach Gene Stallings. In that 1990 season in a game at Tennessee in which a heavy underdog Alabama team upset the Vols, Shultz ut-



Two of the most exciting players in Alabama history were wide receivers who had numerous other talents. David Palmer (left) set records that were broken by Freddie Milons.

Palmer Photo by Barry Fikes; Milons Photo by Butch Dill

tered a line for the ages when he told reporters, “We ought to pay property taxes here. We own this place.”

There’s a saying that only mothers and

girlfriends watch the offensive linemen, but our readers were able to make excellent selections.

Jon Stevenson— Jon never met a position



It’s what’s up front that counts, and among the best Alabama offensive linemen of the 1990s were Jon Stevenson (top left), Chris Samuels (top right), Roosevelt Patterson (bottom left) and Will Friend (bottom right)

Barry Fikes Photos

he did not like. Stevenson played at just about everywhere on the Crimson Tide line from 1991-94. He spent time at center and tackle but always drifted back to the right guard slot for the majority of his playing time. He started in his first game with the Crimson Tide in 1991, becoming the first true freshman to start on the line since 1985. Stevenson was an SEC All-Freshman pick and later was All-SEC. He's now working on his PhD in finance.

Will Friend— Friend steadied the offensive line from the left guard spot from 1994-97. He began his Alabama days by starting the first four games of his freshman year in 1994. Friend played in every game in 1995, including starts in the final three games of the year against LSU, Mississippi State and Auburn. Friend helped lead the Crimson Tide to the SEC Championship Game in 1996 before suffering a season-ending injury to his knee the week before the game. In his final season, he helped anchor the line under first-year Head Coach Mike DuBose, then served as a graduate assistant coach for the Tide.

Roosevelt Patterson— Patterson played at right tackle for the Crimson Tide from 1991-93. He worked his way from backup to starter by his junior year and started every game his senior year. Patterson teamed with Stevenson during most of his career to open holes on the Alabama right side of the line. Patterson, who had made the well-publicized acquaintance of some Miami players prior to the 1993 Sugar Bowl, made several key blocks to allow the Crimson Tide running backs to rush for 267 yards in that National Championship game rout of the Hurricanes.

Chris Samuels— Samuels started at left tackle for the Crimson Tide from 1996-99. He was a team captain his senior season and helped lead the line to open the holes that led to Shaun Alexander's record-setting year in 1999. Samuels started in 42 straight games over his career before an injury prevented him from competing in the final game of his senior year, the 2000 Orange Bowl. Samuels won numerous awards throughout his career but the biggest ones came his senior year. In 1999, he won the Jacobs Award as the best blocker in the SEC and the Outland Trophy as the nation's best lineman and he was a consensus All-America.

Another area where there were out-



Patrick Hape was selected as the tight end on the Team of the Decade. Barry Fikes Photo

standing performers and good competition for this team was tight end.

Patrick Hape— Hape's head coach, Gene Stallings, found the perfect place for Hape on the field. Everywhere. Hape spent his

four years at Alabama in a rover slot. From 1993-96, Hape was found running at fullback, catching passes at tight end, or blocking at either spot. Hape's most utilized skill at Alabama was his blocking, but he did occasionally sneak behind defenses into a receiving pattern. He caught a pass for 45 yards in 1994 against Southern Mississippi and caught a career-best 12 passes in 1996.

One of the most important positions on a football team is place-kicker.

Philip Doyle— Doyle was the Crimson Tide's kicker from 1987-90 and finished his career as the school's all-time scorer with 345 points. He was a consensus All-America his senior season as he led the team as one of the captains. He helped Alabama upset Tennessee in 1990 by kicking three field goals, including a 47-yard attempt on the final play of the game to win the game, 9-6. Doyle's longest successful field goal was from 53 yards out during his sophomore season of 1988. He traded in his pads for a glove in the spring and played baseball for the Crimson Tide.



Phillip Doyle (17) was named the placekicker on the Team of the Decade, while Daniel Pope won the honor as punter. Barry Fikes Photos



He's Had Big League Experiences

by Peter Edmund

Although likely to be a top draft choice, Gullledge focuses on Bama success

Kelley Gullledge understands exactly what it takes to get to the major leagues. He understands exactly what it's like to swing at a Nolan Ryan fastball. He understands exactly how far Frank Thomas, Albert Belle, Jose Canseco and Ruben Sierra can hit a baseball into the night at The Ballpark at Arlington. He has even smacked a ball off the famed "Green Monster" at Boston's Fenway Park.

The Alabama catcher from Arlington, Texas, has experienced most of this from his seat in the third base dugout at old Arlington Stadium and now at the new Ballpark, the home of the American League's Texas Rangers.

Gullledge spent most of his childhood and teenage life as a bat boy for the visiting team at Rangers home games. He was paid \$25 per game plus tips and worked 10-12 hours per day. In addition to his duties on the field, Gullledge helped the clubhouse attendant take care of the 25 big leaguers. His duties ranged from doing laundry to cleaning shoes.

It was a great learning experience for the Mansfield High School standout, who in those days could dream of one day playing college baseball en route to having some kid shine his shoes in a major league clubhouse.

Gullledge got the job through his father, Chuck Gullledge, a full-time employee of the Texas Rangers Baseball Club. Chuck is the director of In-Park Entertainment and the public address announcer at the Ballpark. Chuck coordinates all the graphics and messages on the ballpark's message board and scoreboard, coordinates the pregame and between inning music and keeps the fans entertained with his booming voice that introduces each Rangers player.

Now catching for the National League, from Arlington, Kelley Gullledge.

Kelley Gullledge?

Yes, Chuck even introduced his own son as the Home Run Derby catcher at the 1995 All-Star Festivities hosted by the Texas

Rangers. It was an event neither father nor son will ever forget.

"Kelley has been very lucky over the years," his father said. "The Rangers asked me to hire the batting practice pitchers and catcher's for the All-Star Home Run Derby and I brought in three pitchers and asked Kelley if he'd like to catch. I knew he would say yes."

Kelley caught the entire day in the 115-degree heat at the Ballpark. He met every player from both leagues and watched Barry Bonds, Mike Piazza, Albert Belle and Frank Thomas launch missiles into the seats as they entertained the packed house and a national television audience.

"It didn't dawn on me until it was all over," Kelley said. "It was an awesome experience for me to meet all the guys from the National League. I was excited when I took the field to catch, but even more excited after it was over realizing what I had done."

Chuck remembers the expression on his 15-year old son's face as they drove home that night and the stories he told.

"He was excited," Chuck said. "What 15-year-old would not have been? Kelley wore a microphone and helmet cam from ESPN and they gave us the raw footage tape. We could hear every thing the players said to him and his expressions when a guy would hit one out of the park."

"I think the most impressive part of the day was when Albert Belle told him to tell the pitcher to get the ball up. Kelley went out and told the pitcher and Belle hit the next two balls into the seats. He liked that a lot."

Kelley always worked the visiting dugout so he could meet the other players around the league. He was also friends with the Rangers, too. In other words, Kelley had the best of both worlds.

From the third base dugout, Kelley has seen just about everything. In addition to the 1995 All-Star festivities, he witnessed Nolan Ryan's 5000th strikeout, Juan Gonzales' three-home run game, Jose Canseco's 487-foot home run (the longest in the history of the Ballpark) and he has participated in charity games sponsored by the New York Yankees where he has caught Hall of Famers Nolan Ryan and Juan Marichal.

Gullledge also participated in the very first AL Divisional Series Playoff Game, working as the Yankees bat boy for the Yankees.

All of this, while the high school star was trying to develop his own career and become one of the top high school catchers.

"It was hard for Kelley to work every night," Chuck said. "He played high school baseball and summer baseball. He had his own 60-game schedule to play, but every night he could work he was there."

"Kelley always worked the visiting dugout so he could meet the other guys. We have a picture of him in the on-deck circle with New York's Bernie Williams at the first play-off game at the Ballpark. He liked those Yankee pinstripes."

Kelley dressed in the team uniforms and wore caps of all the visiting teams. At the end of each series he was allowed to keep the cap and he built a nice collection of big-league caps during his days with the Rangers.

His experience with the Rangers has helped his personal career, too. Kelley feels like he is a better player and understands the hard work it takes to make it to the major leagues. But more importantly, he understands the hard work it takes to stay in the major leagues.

"It was a lot of fun," Kelley said. "It was a great experience for me to see what it takes to make it at that level of baseball, to see how hard those guys work everyday. Whether it's high school baseball or college baseball here at Alabama, I know now the dedication it takes to reach the major leagues, which is something that I want to do one day."

"It showed me how hard I need to work and how I needed to improve my work ethic. It gave me a great experience that others will never have and showed me how it's done on the big league level everyday."

Gullledge was an all-state catcher at Arlington's Mansfield High School, where he posted a .414 batting average with 24 home runs and 100 RBI in his three-year career. He holds numerous career records at the school and was District 7A Most Valuable Player and *Dallas Morning News* Player of the Year in 1997.

Even with those numbers, Gullledge did not sign in the early signing period out of high school even though all the big name Texas schools were calling his house everyday. Gullledge took a visit to Alabama in February 1997 and decided then to make Sewell-Thomas Stadium his college baseball home. He signed with the Tide in April, 1997.

"Coach (Todd) Butler asked to come for a visit and I fell in love with the place," Kelley said. "I thought the atmosphere here was really awesome. Alabama played in front of big crowds every game and the atmosphere here was great. I had a great time on my recruiting visit and thought I would fit in well



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here, so I signed. Two years later, it is better than I could have imagined."

Gulledge has fit in well. Serving as a back-up to senior catcher Matt Frick in 1998, Gulledge appeared in 41 games and batted .250 with three home runs and 18 RBI. After that year as under-study, Gulledge became the starting catcher last season and put up some impressive numbers for the Tide. As a sophomore, he batted .344 with 11 home runs and 53 RBI in 59 games. He was named to the SEC All-Tournament Team and the NCAA All-Regional Team, leading Alabama to a fourth-place finish at the 1999 College World Series.

Gulledge also spent the past two summers playing in the Cape Cod League, a wooden-bat league for the nation's top college players. In 1998, Gulledge hit two home runs at Fenway Park in the Cape Cod League's All-Star Home Run Derby.

His efforts have not gone unnoticed.

Gulledge is a catching prospect with an excellent arm and power at the plate. He is listed among the Top 100 College Prospects by *Baseball America* for the upcoming Major League Draft this June. In a poll of SEC coaches and scouting directors, Gulledge was also voted the SEC's Top Catching Prospect, Best Defensive Catcher and Best Arm in the publication's pre-season college baseball edition.

"I don't think about the draft," Gulledge said. "I am concentrating on having a good season this year at Alabama, winning the SEC and going back to Omaha. If the draft happens that's great. My main concern right now is helping this team win and go to Omaha."

His father wants what is best for his son, whether it's at the Joe or the Ballpark in Arlington.

"It's probably been more special for me," Chuck said. "Alabama is a special place to play. We have seen other programs and there is none out there like Alabama. They have excellent coaches, who teach the game, want to win and want you to be successful as a person."

"It's very hard to play at this level, but it's even harder to play at a place like Alabama. I think that's the most special thing to me for Kelley is the success he has had and where that success has been."

While the two have not talked about Kelley's future in professional baseball, they both know that has always been his dream.

"We haven't really talked about it," Chuck added. "I know that Kelley wants an SEC ring and that would be the greatest thing in the world to him. He also wants to go back to Omaha, too. It is very hard to leave a place like Alabama and go to minors and play in front of 500 people. I'll be honest, I'll miss



Kelley Gulledge, who is Alabama's catcher for the second consecutive year this season, is considered a top prospect for the Major League Draft. Gulledge has a unique baseball background that gives him an appreciation of what it takes to succeed in baseball. Kent Gidley Photo

Alabama, too. This is a great experience."

While Gulledge will have time to ponder his future in professional baseball, the 2000 season is under way. As the Tide's starting catcher, Gulledge will do everything it takes to help the Crimson Tide achieve success this season and hopefully wear that ring at the end of the 70-game schedule.

And, who knows; one day he might step to the plate at the Ballpark at Arlington. Whether it's for the Rangers or another American League team (or maybe even as a National League all-star), Kelley will have made it to the big leagues.

"Now batting, the catcher, number 25, Kelley Gulledge."

That certainly would be special for Kelley Gulledge. But one has to believe it would be even more special for the Rangers' announcer, Kelley's father, Chuck.

Bama Lands Star-Studded Group

by James Edwards

Tide has one of nation's best recruiting classes as Bama goes after linemen

There are all sorts of reasons for Alabama's 1999 football success. That 10-3 season was partly the result of excellent leadership from the seniors, the return for his fifth year by tailback Shaun Alexander, and the coaching of Mike DuBose and his staff, among other things. One trait of that 10-3 team that won the Southeastern Conference championship and finished eighth in the nation was the impact of young players. A string of top five national recruiting classes has given Alabama one of those key ingredients for a winning football team: quality players.

Now that Alabama has finished another recruiting season, there is reason for continued optimism in Tuscaloosa. Alabama has generally been rated as once again having one of the nation's top recruiting classes. Indeed, the class is probably better than ranked because Bama did not bother signing a quarterback or tailback, which are high profile positions. Bama also did not sign a place-kicker or tight end. But the number of linemen on both offense and defense is, as Coach DuBose pointed out, the stuff of championships. It's doubtful Alabama coaches would trade this group for the signees of any other college team.

The defensive line signees are considered to be the finest ever signed by one school. The Tide also has excellent offensive linemen. The linebacking corps has speed, tenaciousness, versatility, and pass-covering skills. The secondary and receiver corps each added men who are considered the best athletes on their respective teams. The group includes the South's number one punter, three junior college All-Americans, and the number one player in Canada.

Once again this year Alabama "signed" over the limit in order to assure having the necessary number of qualified signees. If more than the limit of 25 signees qualify under NCAA academic standards, there is a plan. Bama will not have more than 25 new

2000 ALABAMA FOOTBALL SIGNEES

Name, Pos	Hgt	Wgt	Hometown (HS or JC)
Carlos Andrews, DB	6-0	200	Tallahassee, Fla. (Godby)
Wesley Britt, OL	6-8	295	Cullman (Cullman)
Connie Brown, DB	6-3	210	San Francisco (San Francisco CC)
Anthony Bryant, DL	6-4	324	Newbern (Sunshine)
*Gerard Clark, DL	6-7	268	Daytona Beach, Fla. (Maitland/Milford Prep)
Reggie Cordy, OL	6-3	270	Dublin, Ga. (Dublin)
Brooks Daniels, LB	6-3	200	Jasper, Fla. (Hamilton County)
*Dre Fulgham, WR	6-2	210	Montevallo (Montevallo)
*Raymon Hudson, DB	5-10	205	Bonifay, Fla. (Bonifay)
Chris "C.J." James, DB	6-1	180	Albany, Ga. (Dougherty)
Harold James, LB/SS	6-1	218	Osceola, Ark. (Osceola)
Donnie Lowe, LB	6-3	225	LaVergne, Tenn. (LaVergne)
Triandos Luke, WR	6-0	175	Phenix City (Central)
Danny Martz, OL	6-5	295	Hyattsville, Md. (DeMatha Catholic)
Evan Mathis, OL	6-5	255	Homewood (Homewood)
Nautyn McKay-Loescher, DL	6-4	240	Toronto, Ontario, Canada (Central Tech)
*Garry McNealy, DL	6-5	275	Perry, Fla. (Taylor County)
Albert Means, DL	6-6	310	Memphis, Tenn. (Trezevant)
Maurice "Mo" Mitchell, OL	6-7	310	Albany, Ga. (Dougherty)
#Aries Monroe, LB	6-2	232	Tallahassee, Fla. (Coffeyville, Kansas, JC)
Antwan Odom, DL	6-6	260	Bayou LaBatre (Alma Bryant)
Shawn Oglesby, DL	6-7	230	Owensboro, Ky. (San Francisco CC)
Jason Rawls, LB	6-1	215	Statesboro, Ga. (Statesboro)
Matthew Sanders, P	6-2	220	Ashville (Ashville)
Justin Smiley, OL	6-4	303	Brooklet, Ga. (Southeast Bulloch)
Mac Tyler, DL	6-6	320	Bessemer (Jess Lanier/Milford Prep)
Derrian Walker, WR	5-10	180	Bessemer (Jess Lanier)
Thurman Ward, DB	6-2	180	Starkville, Miss. (Starkville)
*Derrick Woods, WR	5-9	172	Memphis, Tenn. (Melrose)
Cornelius Wortham, LB/SS	6-2	190	Calhoun City, Miss. (Calhoun City)

* Re-signed after signing in 1999 but failing to gain academic eligibility

#Already enrolled at Alabama and will participate in spring football practice.

scholarshipped players in August. Indeed, the Tide will likely have fewer than that.

Here in alphabetical order is a look at the new Alabama football signees, including each one's projected position, height, weight, 40-yard dash time, hometown and school:

Carlos Andrews, strong safety, 6-0, 200, 4.5 from Godby High School in Tallahassee, Florida. Considered the best pure player in the Tallahassee region as a senior. He is equally effective at both running back and strong safety. His junior year he rushed for 1,128 yards and eight touchdowns, while racking up 84 tackles, four sacks, and two interceptions from his safety slot. He was bothered by an injury his senior year and played in just eight games. He did manage to rush for 628 yards and five touchdowns, while having 84 tackles and 10 tackles for loss.

Wesley Britt, offensive tackle, 6-8, 295,

5.1 from Cullman High School. Easily the best offensive line prospect in the state. He has excellent quickness, great speed, and is very coachable. He plays in an offense that loves to put it in the air, so his pass blocking is more developed than his run blocking. He was exclusively a defensive lineman until his senior year. He graded 85 per cent blocking efficiency in his first full season on offense. Considered Florida and Auburn strongly before signing with the Tide.

Connie Brown, free safety, 6-3, 210, 4.5 from City College in San Francisco, California. Perhaps the best free safety in junior college. He has incredible instincts, hits like a linebacker, is a very good leaper, and can catch the football. He was a force on the defense that just won the Junior College National Championship. He hails from Rohnert Park, California, and Petaluma High School. He was a standout his senior year when he rush for 700 yards



Carlos Andrews

and 15 touchdowns, while snagging 15 interceptions. He became a starter the sixth game of his freshman year at CCSF and had 30 tackles and five interceptions. He finished his sophomore year with 65 tackles and six interceptions.

Anthony Bryant, defensive tackle, 6-4, 324, 4.8 from Sunshine High School in Newbern. He is an imposing figure on the football field, and he just erased the competition in his school's classification (1A). He lined up at defensive tackle, defensive end, middle linebacker, fullback, offensive line, and tight end. He had 95 tackles and 13 sacks his junior year, and backed that up his senior year with over 120 tackles and 11 sacks. He caught 15 passes his senior year at tight end for 441 yards and six touchdowns. Anthony has overwhelming strength (bench press-365, squat-650) and his calves measure 25 inches. He was also a top basketball performer. The sky is the limit for this young man whose nickname is "Bear."

Gerard Clark, defensive end, 6-7, 268, 4.6 from Milford (Connecticut) Academy. Gerard is a resignee from last year's class. He chose to enroll in prep school and that has proven to be the right decision. He is now qualified, plus he is a year more mature on the football field. He originally is from Mainland High School in Daytona Beach, Florida. He had a stellar high school career in which he posted 262 tackles and 30 sacks. At Milford last season he displayed incredible athleticism that previously may have been untapped. He had 75 tackles and eight sacks while playing outside linebacker. He was timed a 4.61 at Milford.

Reggie Cordy, center, 6-3, 270, 5.1 from Dublin High School in Dublin, Georgia. A sleeper prospect that is very intelligent, plays low, and moves his feet well. He can be utilized as either a quick pulling offensive guard, or he may be best suited for center. He was not recruited by many schools, but he does have the same characteristics as current Tide center Paul Hogan



Wesley Britt



Anthony Bryant

(All-SEC last year as a junior) coming out of high school. He is a three-year starter and also played on the defensive line.

Brooks Daniels, outside linebacker, 6-3, 200, 4.5 from Hamilton County High School in Jasper, Florida. He hails from the same school as Florida linebacker Alex Brown. However, most think that Daniels will be an even more dominating player at the college level. His game is speed and he displays it all over the field. He had 92 tackles, 14 sacks, and two interceptions as a junior. His senior year he improved to over 100 tackles with 15 sacks.

Leonard "Dre" Fulgham, wide receiver, 6-2, 210, 4.5 from Montevallo High School. A multi-talented player who gives Alabama that big receiver that many schools have tried to utilize against them the past two seasons. He is a tremendous leaper who showcases an exciting 39-inch vertical jump. His senior year in high school, he made 45 receptions for 940 yards and 18 touchdowns. He also played free safety and showed he could man that position as well (72 tackles, eight interceptions). He is a resignee from last year's class.

Raymon Hudson, cornerback, 5-10, 205, 4.45 from Holmes County High School in Bonifay, Florida. Another super resignee from last year's class who has worked hard and gained his eligibility. He also has been religious in the weightroom for he added 15 pounds of bulk. He was a super high school running back who posted 4329 yards and 52 touchdowns in three years. He also had two interceptions his senior year.

Chris James, cornerback, 6-1, 180, 4.32 from Dougherty High School in Albany, Georgia. A sparkplug on the field who is considered the best athlete on a state championship team. He played quarterback and accounted for 1,350 yards (900 pass, 450 rush) and 13 touchdowns (seven pass, six rush). He played in a five cornerback rotation as a junior when he posted 30 tackles and five interceptions. However, he was so valuable at quarterback his senior year, he



Gerard Clark



Reggie Cordy

was limited to just offense. He is also a track star.

Harold James, outside linebacker, 6-1, 218, 4.45 from Osceola (Arkansas) High School. Unquestionably the number one player in Arkansas. He is a super running back and strong safety who has the physical game to move to linebacker in college. He likely will spend his days in Tuscaloosa on defense. He had an outstanding high school career that saw him rush for 1,443 yards and 19 touchdowns as a junior, while his senior year he had 894 yards and 13 touchdowns. Defensively over that two-year span he had 159 tackles and six interceptions (two for touchdowns) as a junior, plus 67 tackles and three interceptions (two for touchdowns) as a senior. His senior year he had to battle injuries. He was the last to sign with Bama.

Donnie Lowe, linebacker, 6-3, 225, 4.79 from LaVergne (Tennessee) High School. A technically sound inside linebacker who rates high in every area. He moves well down the line of scrimmage, he pursues on angles, he is strong at the point of attack, he sheds blocks well, and he is a sure tackler. He has been compared to former Alabama linebacker, John Sullins. He had 88 tackles his junior year, and he advanced that total to 145 his senior year. He is not one-dimensional, either, for he gained 875 yards at fullback and scored eight touchdowns. He committed to Vanderbilt early, but the night he was being scouted by Alabama he rushed for 276 yards and three touchdowns, while racking up 18 tackles. Alabama offered and he accepted.

Triandos Luke, wide receiver, 6-0, 175, 4.4 from Central High School in Phenix City. This outstanding prospect ranks as the best receiver in Alabama. He is a deep threat, but also a precise route runner. He had 17 receptions for 396 yards and three touchdowns as a junior, and increased those marks to 30 receptions for 600 yards and five touchdowns as a senior. He is very good at setting up the defensive back, then making the big play.



Dre Fulgham



Chris James



Harold James



Donnie Lowe



Triandos Luke



Danny Martz



Evan Mathis

Danny Martz, offensive guard, 6-5, 295, 5.1 from DeMatha Catholic High School in Hyattsville, Maryland. An offensive tackle who has very quick feet. He has played soccer all his life and that has translated to his good footwork. He is a very good run blocker who fires off low and hard. He graded 90 per cent blocking efficiency or better in every game his senior year. He has excellent strength (bench press-370, squat-520).

Evan Mathis, center, 6-5, 255, 4.8 from Homewood High School in Birmingham. A sleeper prospect who projects as a center in college. He is stockily built, moves well, and shows a tremendous work ethic. He was not heavily recruited but Alabama saw potential. He is the nephew of former Alabama and Miami Dolphin great, Bob Baumhower. He graded 80 per cent blocking efficiency as a senior. He also had 56 tackles and six sacks on defense. He was also the state heavyweight wrestling champion.

Nautyn McKay-Loescher, defensive end, 6-4, 240, 4.55 from Central Tech School in Toronto, Ontario, in Canada. This highly recruited defensive end is considered the number one player in Canada. He is such a talented player that he also ranks as the number two defensive end in American ratings. He has an amazingly fast first step that allows him to get around the corner before an offensive tackle can get completely out of his stance. He had 55 tackles and 16 sacks his senior year and most of his sacks were on the opposite side of the field from where he lined up. Although he had committed to Michigan State, he was a life-long Alabama fan. He met fellow Bama signee Mac Tyler at an all-star meeting in Hawaii and that led to his opportunity at Bama.

Garry McNealy, defensive tackle, 6-5, 275, 4.85 from Taylor County High School in Perry, Florida. Another resignee involved in this year's group, but unlike the others, Garry will not participate on the field next season. He has already entered school, but he failed to make a passing test score, which places him in the role of a partial

qualifier. He will be allowed to practice and he will get looks at both defensive tackle and offensive guard. He had a very good prep career, but he will have missed two complete seasons of playing time before he is fully eligible in 2001. He had 47 tackles and six sacks his junior year, while producing 56 tackles and two sacks his senior year.

Albert Means, defensive tackle, 6-6, 310, 4.9 from Trezevant High School in Memphis, Tennessee. He is the number one player in the South, top player in Tennessee, a *USA Today* All-America, and a *Pigskin Prep* Super South 75 member. He played middle linebacker and showed remarkable ability to handle the run and the pass (eight interceptions over two years, five returned for touchdowns). He had 118 tackles and 11 sacks as a junior, while producing 120 tackles and nine sacks as a senior. He will move down to the tackle position in college.

Maurice "Mo" Mitchell, offensive tackle, 6-7, 310, 5.0 from Dougherty High School in Albany, Georgia. Compares favorably to 1999 Alabama freshman Dante Ellington. He has all the tools for greatness and he was as heralded as any offensive lineman across the South. He plays with a defensive mentality and he is technically sound. His mobility, aggressiveness, and footwork all point to early playing time.

Aries Monroe, linebacker, 6-2, 232, 4.46 from Coffeyville (Kansas) Community College. Aries signed with Alabama two years ago but failed to qualify. He had posted two back to back great seasons (150 tackles, 29 sacks, 12 quarterback pressures) at Godby High School in Tallahassee, Florida. He attended junior college at Coffeyville and he put together two great seasons. His freshman year he had 32 tackles and three sacks, while his sophomore year he had 40 tackles, seven sacks, and 14 quarterback pressures. He was coached by the same man that tutored Leonard Little (former Tennessee great) and he said that Monroe is a bigger, stronger, faster version

of Little. He has already enrolled at The Capstone and will be going through spring practice.

Antwan Odom, defensive end, 6-6, 260, 4.65 from Alma Bryant High School in Irvington. The top rated defensive end in the South and a dynamite pass rusher. He is extremely fast off the corner and he has become sackmaster. He had 44 tackles and 16 sacks as a junior, while his senior year produced 51 tackles, 11 sacks, 11 hurries, and three fumble recoveries (two returned for touchdowns). He is rated the number one defensive end in the South by *Pigskin Preps*, and some national publications have him tops in the nation.

Shawn Oglesby, defensive end, 6-7, 230, 4.6 from City College of San Francisco. A dominating pass rusher who ranked second only to Dennis Johnson in Kentucky when he was a senior, despite missing that season with off-the-field trouble. He has made a full turn-around in character and it shows on the field. Shawn is originally from Hopkinsville, Kentucky, which is the home of 1999 Alabama linebacker Miguel Merritt. He had a stellar sophomore campaign at City College. He had 53 tackles and 15.5 sacks while being a defensive leader for the junior college national champions.

Jason Rawls, linebacker, 6-1, 215, 4.5 from Statesboro (Georgia) High School. This talented linebacker turned his fortunes around when he became a full-time linebacker. He was the star running back as a junior (700 yards, 11 touchdowns), and through the first four games of his senior year. He moved to linebacker in the fifth game and he tallied 92 tackles, five sacks, and two interceptions the rest of the season. He has the ability to play either inside or outside linebacker in college.

Matthew Sanders, punter, 6-2, 220, 4.7 from Ashville High School. While he played quarterback and linebacker in high school, he has made his name with his booming punts. He averaged a state-best 47.3 yards per punt as a junior, and he was just as impressive his senior year averaging



Garry McNealy

45.0 yards. Amazingly, none of his punts hit the ground and rolled; they were all fair caught. He is also an expert at putting the ball out at inside the ten.

Justin Smiley, offensive guard, 6-4, 303, 4.94 from Southeast Bulloch High School in Brooklet, Georgia. Impact offensive lineman who has the ability to start as a freshman. Smiley is a rugged interior force who demolishes his opponent into submission. He is physical, dominating, and agile. He will be as valuable to the guard position as Ellington was to the tackle slot a year ago. He ranks as the number two offensive guard in the South by *Pigskin Preps*, and also made their SuperSouth 75 team.

Mac Tyler, defensive tackle, 6-6, 320, 4.8 from Jess Lanier High School in Bessemer. Generally considered the state's number one player. He is a mammoth defensive lineman who has been double- and triple-teamed the past two seasons, and that is the reason for his tackles being down from his sophomore season. He had 80 tackles and seven sacks as a sophomore, 50 tackles and three sacks as a junior, and 45 tackles and 11 tackles for loss as a senior. He opted to transfer to Milford (Connecticut) Academy this semester in hopes of attaining academic eligibility by August.

Derrian Walker, wide receiver, 5-10, 180, 4.4 from Jess Lanier High School in Bessemer. A wideout who was hidden in the shadow of his teammate, Mac Tyler. He failed to become a starter until his senior year, but he did make the most of his opportunities in his final season. He had 25 receptions for 489 yards and five touchdowns. He showed elusiveness and toughness.

Thurman Ward, free safety, 6-2, 180, 4.5 from Starkville (Mississippi) High School. From the alma mater of Freddie Milons comes his clone. Ward is a superb athlete who played quarterback his senior year and accounted for 1786 yards (960 passing, 826 rushing) and 23 touchdowns (12 pass, 11 rush). His future is probably at free safety and that is where he displayed his ability as



Albert Means



Maurice Mitchell

a junior. He had 75 tackles, three interceptions, and four fumble recoveries (two returned for touchdowns). His versatility and athleticism make him among the best in the South.

Derrick Woods, wide receiver, 5-9, 172, 4.4 from Melrose High School in Memphis, Tennessee. A standout receiver who is a resignee from last year's signing day haul. He is defined as a receiver who will take the short route and turn it into points. He isn't afraid to cross the middle, and is an excellent pass-catcher. He had an outstanding final two years in high school (137 receptions, 2,900 yards, 36 touchdowns).

Cornelius Wortham, strong safety, 6-2, 190, 4.41 from Calhoun City (Mississippi) High School. This was perhaps the biggest steal pulled off by the Alabama staff this recruiting year. He seemed headed to Rocky Top before the Alabama tradition and family atmosphere made him feel at home. That Tuscaloosa was several hours closer to his home was also a factor. He is a dynamic player who will either play safety or outside linebacker in college. He may be undersized by some standards, but he has big play ability. He has the speed, aggressiveness, and intelligence to be great. He can handle the outside rushing game, plus he is terrific in pass coverage. He had 101 tackles, 21 tackles for loss, and two interceptions.

Another phase of a successful football program is the quality and number of walk-ons each team has on its roster. In this day of limited scholarships, a successful team has to rely on non-scholarshipped players, in some cases to fill out the scout teams, in other cases to become a front-line performer. Alabama is a school that rewards such performers with scholarships later.

Most major schools now have punters and kickers that fall into this category. Alabama did not sign a kicker in this year's class, leaving the door open for prospective kickers to walk on and earn the job.



Aries Monroe



Antwan Odom



Jason Rawls

Here is a look at players who have already made decisions to join the Tide without benefit of initial scholarship.

Mac Hart, place kicker, 5-10, 195, 4.7 from Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit, Mississippi. This kicking machine is so confident he will win the place-kicking chores that he has already enrolled in school. He has already had success in Alabama as the MVP in the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star game when he kicked the Magnolia State squad to a 9-0 victory. He is originally from McComb High School and he had a stellar career. His junior college statistics in two seasons were 25 of 29 field goals with a long of 49. He was 30 of 32 on extra points with the two misses not his fault. As a junior college performer (unlike high school stars) he has kicked without benefit of a kicking tee, which he will have to do in college. He is a good directional kicker on kickoffs. That means he can kick it accurately to the pylons or deep down the middle.

David Daniel, defensive tackle, 6-2, 280, 4.87 from East Central Community College in Decatur, Mississippi. He is a former star from Tuscaloosa County High School in Northport. He carried his high school success to the junior college ranks and did nothing but get better in every phase of his game. He was selected to the All-JUCO Region first team, All-State first team, and to the Mississippi Junior College All Star Team. He ranked as the 20th best player in the Mississippi junior college ranks last season. He was also named Most Valuable Defensive Lineman in the Mississippi Southern Division. He finished his sophomore season with 105 tackles (75 solo, 30 assist) and 15 sacks. He turned down offers to Marshall, Louisiana Tech, Iowa State, and Georgia Tech in order to live his dream of playing for Alabama.

David Cavan, tight end, 6-6, 230, 4.75 from American Christian High School in Tuscaloosa. A talented athlete, he hails from a small Class A school that won four consecutive area championships. He had 33



Matthew Sanders

receptions for 613 yards and seven touchdowns as a senior. As a defensive end he had 119 tackles (71 solo, 48 assists), 17 sacks and two fumble recoveries. He is also a long snapper. He turned down offers from several schools, including North Alabama, West Alabama and Army. His father is former Tider Pete Cavan and his uncle, Mike, is head coach at SMU.



Justin Smiley



Mac Tyler

Two more possibilities are quarterback, Scott Crouch, 6-4, 218, 4.7 from Navarre High School in Navarre, Florida, and Josh Averitt, quarterback, 6-5, 190, 4.7 from Brookwood High School.

Another player committed to Alabama in January, but did not sign. He is Tarry Givens, wide receiver, 6-5, 200, 4.50 from Godby High School in Tallahassee, Florida.



Derrian Walker



Thurman Ward

One of the tallest and best wideouts in Florida. He is very hard to cover one on one due to his height, speed, and leaping ability. He finished his junior year with 29 receptions for 465 yards and eight touchdowns, then followed that his senior year with 35 receptions, 643 yards, and eight TDs. He plans to enroll at Butler County, Kansas, Community College.



Cornelius Wortham

How The Experts Rank Recruiting

NATIONAL

Bobby Burton	Max Emfinger	Tom Lemming	SuperPrep	Prep Star
1. Florida	1. Tennessee	1. Florida	1. Florida	1. Florida State
2. Tennessee	2. Florida	2. Tennessee	2. Texas	2. Texas
3. Penn State	3. Florida State	3. ALABAMA	3. Florida State	3. Tennessee
4. Ohio State	4. Texas	4. Florida State	4. Penn State	4. ALABAMA
5. Texas	5. ALABAMA	5. Texas	5. Miami	5. Florida
6. ALABAMA	6. Penn State	6. Penn State	6. Tennessee	6. Penn State
7. Florida State	7. Ohio State	7. Notre Dame	7. ALABAMA	7. Miami

SOUTHERN

Border Wars	Pigskin Preps	Forrest Davis	Tom Culpepper
1. Florida	1. Florida	1. Florida	1. Florida
2. ALABAMA	2. ALABAMA	2. Tennessee	2. ALABAMA
3. Tennessee	3. Tennessee	3. ALABAMA	3. Tennessee
4. Florida State	4. Florida State	4. Florida State	4. Florida State
5. Auburn	5. Auburn	5. Miami	5. Auburn
6. Miami	6. Miami	6. Auburn	6. Miami
7. Georgia Tech	7. Georgia Tech	7. Georgia Tech	7. Georgia Tech
8. Mississippi State	8. Mississippi. State	8. LSU	8. Clemson
9. LSU	9. LSU	9. Mississippi State	9. Mississippi State
10. North Carolina	10. Georgia	10. Ole Miss	10. Arkansas

1999-2000 Alabama Winter Sports Results

Men's Basketball

Date/UA	Opponent	Time (CST)/Opp.
85	Next Level (Exh.)	87 (2OT)
80	B.C. Siroki (Exh.)	70
Earth Grains Classic @ St. Louis, Missouri		
73	Northern Iowa	74
70	St. Louis	78
81	Weber State	61
91	Tennessee Tech	72
Alabama Invitational @ Coleman Coliseum		
94	Centenary	72
85	LaSalle	70
67	Samford (SportsSouth TV)	79
72	@ Louisville	87
75	Tennessee-Chattanooga (Fox SportsSouth TV)	51
	@ Von Braun Center, Huntsville	
97	Alabama A&M	74
Fiesta Bowl Classic @ Tucson, Arizona		
66	Delaware	76
62	NC-Wilmington	45
66	@ LSU	78
77	Mississippi State	74 (OT)
59	@ Georgia (J-P TV)	75
73	Arkansas (J-P TV)	64
73	Florida	77
96	Ole Miss	67
63	@ Auburn (CSSE TV)	77
60	LSU	93
66	@ Arkansas (J-P TV)	81
77	Vanderbilt	63
54	@ Kentucky (J-P TV)	66
61	@ South Carolina	82
Feb. 22	Auburn (ESPN TV)	6:00
Feb. 26	Tennessee (J-P TV)	1:00
March 1	@ Ole Miss	7:00
March 4	@ Mississippi State	2:00
Southeastern Conference Tournament		
March 9-12	@ Atlanta	TBA

Men's Swimming

Date/UA Score	Opponent	Time (CT)/Opp. Score
135.5	Northeast Louisiana	95.5
84	LSU	154
102	@ Auburn	179
127	@ Florida	157
133	Penn State	163
133	@ Clemson	148
132	South Carolina	109
Feb. 16-	SEC Championships	
Feb. 19	@ Auburn	7th
Feb. 25-27	Last Chance @ Auburn	
Mar. 10-11	NCAA Diving Zone @ Auburn	
Mar. 23-	NCAA Championships	
Mar. 25	@ Minneapolis	
Mar. 28-	USS National Championships	
April 1	@ Federal Way, Wash.	
April 2-	U.S. Diving Zone	
April 4	@ Athens	
April 13-	U.S. Diving Championships	
April 18	@ TBA	

Women's Basketball

Date/UA	Opponent	Time (CST)/Opp.
94	Mississippi All-Stars (Exh.)	82
76	Slovan Bratislava (Exh.)	67
Michigan State Holiday Classic		
77	St. John's	50
72	Michigan State	73
88	Samford	51
Cancun (Mexico) Basketball Tournament		
63	Kansas State	60
87	Drake	77
82	South Alabama	54
69	@ Tulane	81
82	@ Akron	62
76	Alabama A&M	51
St. Mary's Christmas Classic @ Moraga, Cal.		
84	Missouri-Kansas City	69
61	St. Mary's	59
57	@ Memphis	77
84	Belmont	58
62	Georgia	71
51	@ Auburn	69
69	@ Ole Miss	67
65	Mississippi State	85
68	Kentucky	67
69	Ole Miss	67
62	@ Arkansas	66
47	@ Tennessee	65
72	LSU	68
59	Auburn (Fox SportsSouth)	69
69	@ South Carolina	67
63	Vanderbilt	68
Feb. 24	@ Georgia	6:00
Feb. 27	@ Florida	2:00
Southeastern Conference Tournament		
March 2-5	@ Chattanooga	TBA

Women's Swimming

Date/UA Score	Opponent	Time (CT)/Opp. Score
90	Northeast Louisiana	23
92	Georgia Southern	21
101.5	LSU	139.5
105	@ Auburn	185
131	@ Florida	161
152	Penn State	147
111	@ Clemson	172
145	South Carolina	88
Feb. 16-	SEC Championships	
Feb. 19	@ Auburn	7th
Feb. 25-27	Last Chance @ Auburn	
Mar. 10-11	NCAA Diving Zone @ Auburn	
Mar. 16-	NCAA Championships	
Mar. 18	@ Indianapolis	
Mar. 28-	USS National Championships	
April 1	@ Federal Way, Wash.	
April 2-	U.S. Diving Zone	
April 4	@ Athens	
April 13-	U.S. Diving Championships	
April 18	@ TBA	

Gymnastics

Date/UA	Opponent	Time (CST)/Opp.
Super Six Kickoff @ Athens, Georgia		
1. Alabama	195.750	2. Georgia 195.400
3. Michigan	194.925	4. Nebraska 193.325
5. UCLA	193.225	6. Florida 193.025
195.525	Auburn	191.050
196.250	Florida	192.725
197.050	@ Georgia (ESPN)	197.175
197.050	@ Auburn	194.175
196.250	@ LSU	196.325
196.100	North Carolina	191.300
Arizona State Invitational @ Tempe, Arizona		
1. Arizona State	195.850	2. Alabama 195.300
3. Minnesota	195.150	4. Utah 194.675
Feb. 25	@ Kentucky	6:30
March 4	Georgia (SportsSouth)	7:00
March 11	Penn State	7:00
March 18	SEC Championships @ Gainesville	
April 1	NCAA Central Regional	
April 13-	NCAA Championships	
April 15	@ Boise, Idaho	

Men's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 15	Purple Tiger @ Baton Rouge
Jan. 22	SEC Four-Way @ Lexington (Alabama, Mississippi State, Tennessee, Kentucky)
Feb. 4-5	Notre Dame Classic @ South Bend, Ind.
Feb. 25-27	SEC Championships @ Fayetteville
March 3-4	USATF Championships @ Atlanta
March 10-11	NCAA Championships @ Fayetteville

Women's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 15	Purple Tiger @ Baton Rouge
Jan. 22	SEC Four-Way @ Lexington (Alabama, Mississippi State, Tennessee, Kentucky)
Feb. 4-5	Cannon IV @ Indianapolis
Feb. 11	Virginia Tech Invitational @ Blacksburg
Feb. 25-27	SEC Championships @ Fayetteville
March 3-4	USATF Championships @ Atlanta
March 10-11	NCAA Championships @ Fayetteville

2000 Alabama Spring Sports Schedules

Baseball

Date	Opponent	Time
11	BYU	1
3	BYU	8
9	BYU	6
12	Louisiana Tech	5
Winn Dixie Showdown @ Louisiana Superdome		
3	New Orleans	4
7	Tulane	11
7	Auburn	2
Feb. 22	Georgia Southern	5:00
Feb. 23	Georgia Southern	5:00
Feb. 25	Central Florida	7:00
Feb. 26	Central Florida	4:00
Feb. 27	Central Florida	1:00
Feb. 29	Austin Peay	7:00
Mar. 1	UAB	7:00
Mar. 3	Purdue	7:00
Mar. 4	Purdue	4:00
Mar. 5	Purdue	1:00
Mar. 8	@ Samford	6:00
Mar. 10	Kentucky	7:00
Mar. 11	Kentucky	4:00
Mar. 12	Kentucky	1:00
Mar. 15	South Alabama	7:00
Mar. 17	@ Georgia	6:00
Mar. 18	@ Georgia	1:00
Mar. 19	@ Georgia	12:30
Mar. 21	Southern Miss	7:00
Mar. 24	Mississippi State	7:00
Mar. 25	Mississippi State	4:00
Mar. 26	Mississippi State	1:00
Mar. 28	South Alabama	6:05
@ Hank Aaron Stadium		
Mar. 29	Jacksonville St.	7:00
Mar. 31	@ South Carolina	6:00
Apr. 1	@ South Carolina	3:00
Apr. 2	@ South Carolina	12:30
Apr. 5	@ West Alabama	7:00
Apr. 7	Tennessee	7:00
Apr. 8	Tennessee	4:00
Apr. 9	Tennessee	1:00
Apr. 11	@ Southern Miss	6:30
Apr. 14	@ Arkansas	6:30
Apr. 15	@ Arkansas (SS)	2:15
Apr. 16	@ Arkansas	1:00
Apr. 19	Northwestern St	7:00
Apr. 21	Ole Miss	7:00
Apr. 22	Ole Miss	4:00
Apr. 23	Ole Miss	1:00
Apr. 26	Samford	7:00
Apr. 28	@ Vanderbilt	7:00
Apr. 29	@ Vanderbilt	7:00
Apr. 30	@ Vanderbilt	1:00
May 5	Auburn	7:00
May 6	Auburn (SS)	2:15
May 7	Auburn	1:00
May 12	@ LSU	7:00
May 13	@ LSU	4:00
May 14	@ LSU	1:00
May 17	SEC Tournament	
May 21	@ Hoover Met	
May 25	NCAA Regionals	
May 28	TBA	
June 2	NCAA SuperRegionals	
June 4	TBA	
June 9	College World Series	
June 18	@ Omaha, Nebraska	
All times central		

Softball

Date	Opponent	Time
10	Minnesota Metrodome Classic	
5	Louisville	2
2	Western Illinois	1
2	Minnesota	0
5	Missouri (11 inn.)	4
6	Northern Iowa	5
8	Northern Iowa	0
7	Louisville	6
Feb. 18-20		
North Carolina Triangle		
11	East Carolina	12
11	Rhode Island	0
14	Eastern Kentucky	1
4	Kansas	1
1	Virginia Tech	0
4	North Carolina	1
Feb. 23	UAB	7:00
Feb. 25	Bama Bash	
Feb. 27	(Arizona, DePaul, Drake, Georgia Tech)	
Mar. 3-5		
NFCA Leadoff Classic @ Columbus, Ga.		
Mar. 7	Western Illinois	2:00
Mar. 8	Radford	7:00
Mar. 9	Long Island	7:00
Mar. 10	Crimson Tide Classic	
Mar. 12	(Long Island, Radford, Syracuse, Western Ill.)	
Mar. 14	Syracuse (2)	2:00
Mar. 17	Arkansas (2)	5:00
Mar. 18	Arkansas (2)	1:00
Mar. 24	@ Tennessee (2)	5:00
Mar. 25	@ Kentucky (2)	2:00
Mar. 28	South Carolina (2)	1:00
Mar. 31	@ Auburn (2)	1:00
Apr. 1	@ Auburn (2)	1:00
Apr. 7	Mississippi (2)	5:00
Apr. 8	Mississippi (2)	1:00
Apr. 12	J'ksonville St. (2)	4:30
Apr. 15	@ Florida (2)	1:00
Apr. 21	@ Miss. State (2)	5:00
Apr. 22	@ Miss. State (2)	2:00
Apr. 25	@ Troy State (2)	3:00
Apr. 29	Georgia (2)	1:30
May 5	LSU (2) (SS)	6:30
May 6	LSU	3:00
May 11	SEC Tournament	
May 14	@ Columbus, Ga.	
May 18	NCAA Regionals	
May 21	@ campus sites	
May 25	College World Series	
May 29	@ Oklahoma City	
All times central		
Women's Golf		
Date	Event	Finish
Feb. 25	Florida Lady Gator	
Feb. 27	@ Gainesville	
Mar. 10	Casa de Campo	
Mar. 12	@ Dominican Repub.	
Mar. 31	Liz Murphy Classic	
Apr. 2	@ Athens, Ga.	
Apr. 7	LSU Invitational	
Apr. 9	@ Baton Rouge, La.	
Apr. 21	SEC Championships	
Apr. 23	@ Fayetteville, Ark.	
May 11	NCAA Regional	
May 13	@ Columbus, Ohio	
May 24	NCAA Championships	
May 27	@ Bend, Oregon	

Men's Tennis

Date/UA	Opponent	Time/Opp.
Jan. 20-	SEC Indoor	
Jan. 24	@ Tuscaloosa	
Feb. 4-	National Indoor	
Feb. 7	@ Dallas	
2	@ Baylor	5
2	@ Miami	5
3	@ Tennessee	4
Feb. 20	@ UAB	1:00
Feb. 26	Jacksonville St	9:00
Feb. 26	Georgia State	2:00
Mar. 3	@ Arkansas	1:00
Mar. 8	South Carolina	1:00
Mar. 12	Georgia	1:00
Mar. 16-	Blue-Gray Classic	
Mar. 19	@ Montgomery	
Mar. 22	@ LSU	1:00
Mar. 25	Vanderbilt	1:00
Mar. 28	@ Texas A&M	7:00
Mar. 30	@ SMU	1:00
Apr. 4	@ Ole Miss	1:00
Apr. 7	Florida	1:00
Apr. 9	Kentucky	1:00
Apr. 12	@ Mississippi St.	1:30
Apr. 16	@ Auburn	1:00
Apr. 20-	SEC Championships	
Apr. 23	@ Lexington	
May 14-	NCAA Regionals	
May 17	TBA	
May 22-	NCAA Championships	
May 29	@ Athens	

All times central

Men's Golf

Date	Event	Finish
Feb. 12-13	Gator Invitational	
Feb. 21-	Mercedes Invitational	
Feb. 22	@ Jacksonville, Fla.	
Mar. 6-	Matlock Collegiate	
Mar. 7	@ Lakeland, Fla.	
Mar. 17-	Spring Invitational	
Mar. 19	@ Montgomery	
Apr. 1-	Cleveland Golf Inv.	
Apr. 3	@ Augusta, Ga.	
Apr. 7-	Billy Hitchcock	
Apr. 9	@ Auburn	
Apr. 21-	SEC Championships	
Apr. 23	TBA	
May 8-9	Atlanta Intercollegiate	
May 18-	NCAA Regionals	
May 20	TBA	
May 31-	NCAA Championships	
June 3	@ Auburn	

Women's Outdoor Track

Date	Event
Mar. 18	SEC Four-Way (LSU, Georgia, Mississippi St.)
Mar. 23-	Alabama Relays
Mar. 26	
Apr. 1	Spec Townes Relay @ Athens, Ga.
Apr. 8	Florida Invitational @ Gainesville
Apr. 22	Jace Lacoste Invit. @ Starkville

Women's Tennis

Date	Opponent	Time
4	Northwestern	5
8	Troy State	1
8	UT-Chatanooga	1
8	Georgia State	1
1	Mississippi	8
7	@ UAB	2
Feb. 20	@ Mississippi St.	1:00
Feb. 26	@ Tennessee	Noon
Feb. 27	@ Vanderbilt	Noon
Mar. 5	@ Arkansas	11:00
Mar. 9	Jacksonville St	3:00
Mar. 12	@ Florida	Noon
Mar. 17	LSU	2:00
Mar. 19	Kentucky	1:00
Mar. 27	UT-San Antonio	Noon
Mar. 28	@ Texas A&M	6:00
Apr. 1	@ South Carolina	Noon
Apr. 8	Virginia Tech	Noon
Apr. 10	South Alabama	11:00
Apr. 14	Georgia	2:00
Apr. 16	Auburn	1:00
Apr. 20-	SEC Championships	
Apr. 23	@ Oxford	
May 12-	NCAA Regionals	
May 14	TBA	
May 18-	NCAA Championships	
May 26	@ Malibu, Calif.	

All times central

Men's Outdoor Track

Date	Event
Mar. 18	SEC Four-Way (LSU, Georgia, Mississippi St.)
Mar. 23-	Alabama Relays
Mar. 26	
Apr. 8	Tulane Pelican Invit. @ New Orleans
Apr. 14	Mt. Sac Relays
Apr. 16	@ Walnut, Calif.
Apr. 27-	Drake Relays
Apr. 29	@ Des Moines, Iowa
May 11-	SEC Championships
May 14	@ Baton Rouge, La.
May 20	Georgia Tech Last Chance
May 31-	NCAA Championships
June 3	@ Durham, N.C.
July 14-	U.S. Olympic Trials
July 23	@ Sacramento, Calif.



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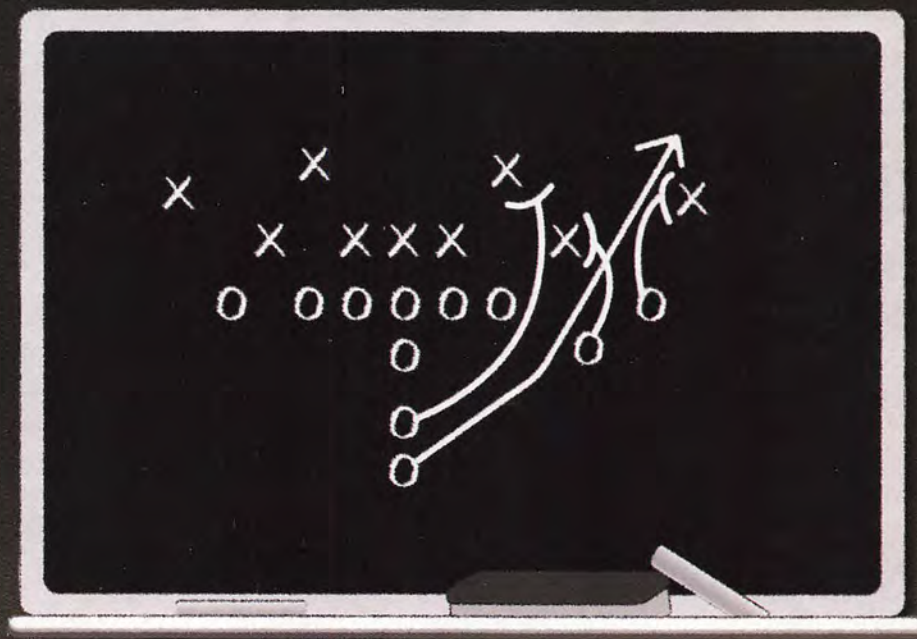


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